

# A Splendid Sin

by Alana Bolton Cooke

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarotti has risen into Rome's artistic elite, and the ailing Pope Clement commissions him to paint *The Last Judgement* in the Sistine Chapel. When the artist apprentices a young Roman nobleman, Tommaso de Cavalieri, to be his muse and inspiration, Michelangelo must contend with the conflict between his growing love and his fear of eternal damnation.

Based on extensive research of the period and of Michelangelo himself, the book outlines the religious fervour at a time when the Catholic Church itself was under threat. The enormous painting, *The Last Judgement* reflects Michelangelo's own conflict between the love of his faith and the love of his young muse.

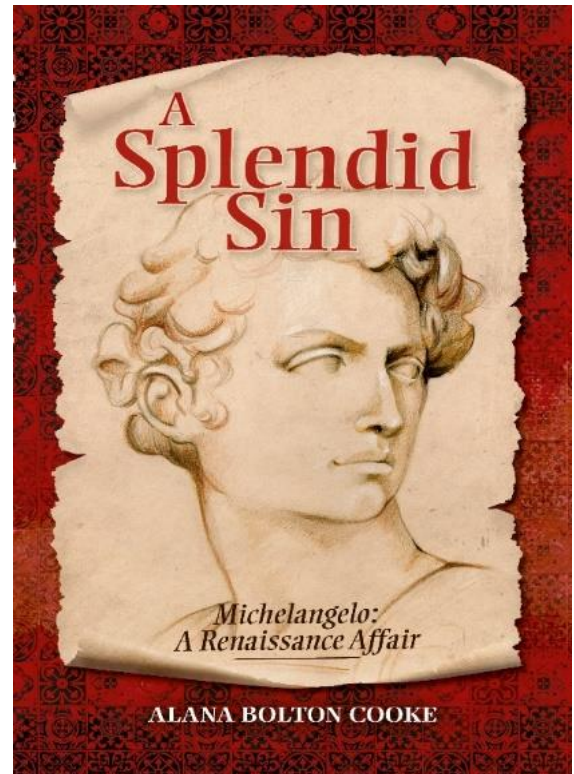
- A richly detailed historical novel based on fact
- Set in Renaissance Rome, also Florence and the Vatican
- Tells the compelling story of Michelangelo's artistic genius
- Provides insight into the conflicts of forbidden same sex love in Renaissance Rome.



**Alana Bolton Cooke** worked as a Registered Nurse in New Zealand and England. She completed a Master of Creative Writing at AUT (Auckland University of Technology), completing a novel about the War of the Spanish Succession, the Battle of Blenheim and the Duke of Marlborough.

Alana has published articles for a newspaper and magazine, and a short story for the *Listener*. For the last two years she has been participating in a critique group at AUT.

*A Splendid Sin* is her debut novel.



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