

# MEDIA KIT

## POPE ANNALISA AND THE FIRST SOULS TRILOGY

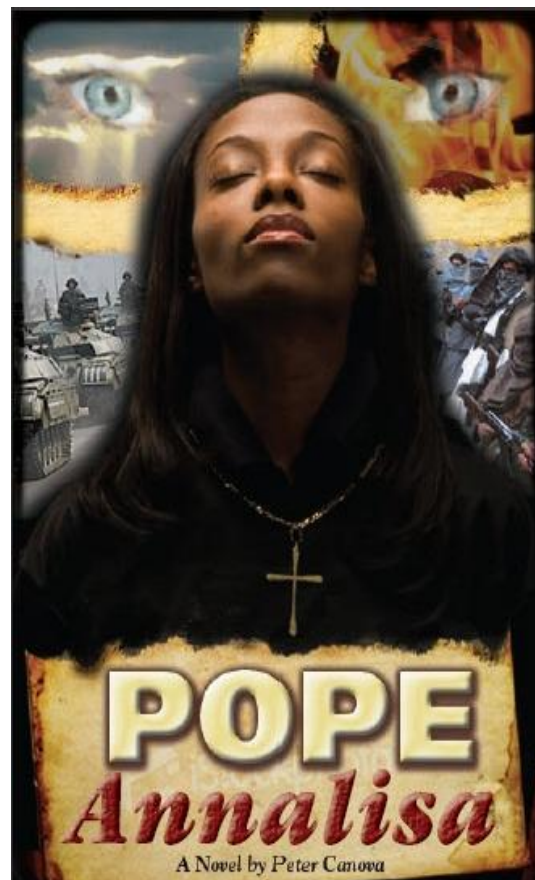
By Peter Canova

**Pope Annalisa, mass publication date-- June, 2010**

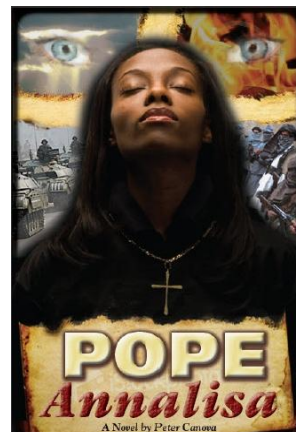
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **(New York, NY, May 6, 2010) – POPE ANNALISA WINS FOUR NATIONAL BOOK MEDALS!**

Author Peter Canova's new book, **POPE ANNALISA**, has won both the Nautilus and the Independent Publisher's Book Awards for fiction. The book swept the prestigious Nautilus Book Awards winning two Silver Medals and one Gold Medal in two different fiction categories. It has also taken another medal in the Independent Publishers Book Award.

*The path to the Nautilus Gold Medal Award was unanimous at all three judging levels and the book obtained the highest scores in its category seen in some years.*

The Nautilus Awards has one of the most rigorous judging processes of any national book award contest. The book must pass three panels of judges with literary backgrounds located across the U.S. in a deliberate course of examination and scrutiny designed to sort and separate books as they are measured against a carefully prepared list of notable characteristics.

The IPPY, or Independent Publishers Award, is the largest book award competition in the world with nearly 4,000 total entries.

Pope Annalisa author Peter Canova now joins the ranks of best selling authors and past winners including: Deepak Chopra, M.D.; Eckhart Tolle; His Holiness the Dalai Lama; Caroline Myss; Barbara Kingsolver; Mariel Hemingway; Judy Collins; Gregg Braden; Joel Osteen, Andrew Weil, M.D.; Gary Zukav; Daniel Pinchbeck; Frances Moore Lappe'; Riane Eisler; Matthew Fox

## **THE REIGN OF MAN HAS ENDED!**

*A woman now has supreme spiritual authority over 1.5 billion souls, and the world will not be the same again.*

**Why do so many want her eliminated?**

**She alters 2,000 years of Catholic practice--**

- Female Clergy allowed at all ranks
- Priests may marry--no more clerical celibacy
- The Church will no longer condemn homosexuality
- The Church will alter its opposition on birth control
- The Church will alter its position on abortion
- The Church will introduce a new mass and a new way of considering God



**She meddles in politics and the Iranian War of 2025--**

The pope physically inserts herself into a war zone to alter the course of the conflict

**She criticizes science and religion--**

“Science and religion have posed dead ends and depleted people’s faith enough for the world to destroy itself.”

**She expresses radical opinions on God, faith, and humanity--**

“God did not create us the way we were taught; *faith* must be superseded by *knowledge* of the divine; human failing is not from sin but ignorance.”

### ***HOLY SPIRIT OR WHOLLY EVIL?***

THE OLD ORDER CRUMBLES, THE NEW ORDER IS BORN IN VIOLENCE--  
IS ANNALISA THE BUILDER OR DESTROYER? *YOU DECIDE.*

“Pope Annalisa is an incredible read. It's a great novel with a spiritual bent that doesn't overwhelm. It reads better than The DaVinci Code or Celestine Prophecy - more like The Color Purple for the Soul.” -- **John Kremer, author of 1001 Ways to Market Your Book, speaker, and noted book marketing expert**

## WHAT ADVANCE REVIEWERS AND READERS ARE SAYING ABOUT

### POPE ANNALISA

“Tackling subjects as weighty and massive as religious clashes, spiritual healing, transcendent beliefs, and a possible End of Days scenario is never easy, but Canova makes it clear that he is well versed in that about which he so adeptly writes. From the opening scene in 68 A.D., to the future story set in places throughout the world, Pope Annalisa is simply riveting, taking readers on an amazing, thought-provoking and powerful journey of the soul, the psyche, and the mind.” – **Kathleen Szmít, The Barnstable Patriot**

”Pope Annalisa is an incredible read. It's a great novel with a spiritual bent that doesn't overwhelm. It reads better than The DaVinci Code or Celestine Prophecy - more like The Color Purple for the Soul.” -- **John Kremer, author of 1001 Ways to Market Your Book, speaker, and book marketing expert**

”**A unique thriller that's bound to be a classic**-- Think about it --- a woman pope - - BUT --- more than that --- a black woman pope! Demonic-looking symbols started appearing around the Vatican when the new pope arrived. What did this mean? Was the world about to end? What is Annalisa's real agenda? Annalisa was treated differently than other popes by the cardinals. Would this change? And why was it happening? No doubt because she was black and a woman. The reader wonders all through the book if the new pope will survive. Moreover, they'll wonder if she's evil or the true savior of the world. I found this to be an exciting, entertaining and awesome story --- well told and powerful and I highly recommend it.”-- **Susanna K. Hutcheson, professional copywriter, feature writer, internet reviewer**

“An epic thriller, captivating from beginning to end. Pope Annalisa compels readers to contemplate their own notions of spirituality, good and evil, power and justice, in the manner of the best literary fiction.” – **Adam Marsh, editor/literary agent**

“Not only is the plot a real page turner, but the book carries deeper messages about why people are so psychically and physically fragmented. More importantly, it posits a way through our human dilemma to embrace our wholeness and our power.-- **Dr. Kathi J. Kemper, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, former faculty of Harvard Medical School, Author of *The Holistic Pediatrician and Mental Health, Naturally***

“Peter Canova is brilliant in his awesome presentation of a world in crisis . . . This is a must read and hopefully a movie soon. This book has the power to change lives.” -- **P. Hebert, reader, Amazon.com reviews**

“I have finished reading POPE ANNALISA and can now report that this is THE best book I have ever read.” – **Karl Werner, reader, Amazon.com**

“Pope Annalisa is a page turner with rich characters, historical insights and intricacies that make it not only plausible but gives you the feeling this is/can be happening.” – **B. Jackson, reader, Amazon.com reviews**

### **A Brilliant Visionary Novel Destined to Become a Classic,**

Pope Annalisa is an exhilarating novel rich with complexities in both plot and characters. While the topic of resurrecting the lost divine feminine is sure to be controversial for many the presentation of this well thought and researched story is sure to win even the most skeptical minds. There are so many wonderful teachings by Pope Annalisa and others to contemplate and adapt into our own lives that can help us put aside the ways of warring with each other to find more meaning, love and peace in the world. One of my favourite messages helps us to understand that even 'Evil itself dances to God's Purpose.' In other words, everything leads back to God regardless of how dark or challenging the circumstances may seem. Set in a world very similar to ours with warring nations, big money and political strife fighting for control Pope Annalisa shows us another waysomething I pray this world can embrace. Peter Canova's debut novel has undoubtedly become one of my absolute favourite novels. Well done, Peter!! **Kiernan Antares, Talk Radio Host**

“This book is a mind blower! It is a page turner while it is fiction you cannot help but sit there and think what if? I highly recommend “Pope Annalisa” as a great fiction read and one that if you are seeking answers, or looking for a read this summer that will keep you interested and help open your mind, then this is the Summer Read of the Year!”—

**Rebbekah White, Talk Radio Host**

“Pope Annalisa is one of the most powerfully written novels I have read in a long time. As a talk show host I interview hundreds of people each year and usually it is non-fiction material. This book relates so clearly, in my mind, the very changes we are having to deal with in today’s current environment; corruption on a massive level throughout the world, political hierarchies that are fearful of change and how one person, a woman, can change what seems to be impossible. The story is gripping from beginning to end and I am looking forward to the sequel. This is a book of inspiration and hope expressed in a very unique way. This is a must read for those who see changes coming and want to be inspired to do something about it.”— **Donna Seebo, award winning author, radio and TV personality**

“From the moment I received my copy of Peter Canova's Award Winning book, Pope Annalisa, I knew I had something special in my hands. Is it *really* a piece of fiction? Is it? Or is it a prelude, as well as historical recap, to what our religious institutions for centuries have kept at bay; a rebirth of our entire perception and conception of the human spirit and how, through the lineage of mankind, the holy spirit is not just changing form, it is showing itself for what it really is. It is breaking out through the confines and boundaries of a Patriarchal institution and giving an equal stage to the Sacred Feminine spirit. To say this book is provocative, is a statement that rests along a well traveled road within the framework of its very existence. Very few books can provoke a reader to question their knowing of whether or not the fiction in front of them is merely fiction, or if there is something so much deeper rooted within its pages. Pope Annalisa did that for me. I would be surprised to *not* see this wonderful work of art become transferred to film. It reminds me of something someone once told me. If a great message is meant to be shared, then it will take on a life of its own, and nothing will be able to stop it from reaching those that need it most. Pope Annalisa is a great message and her journey has just begun. – **Debbie Edwards, Talk Radio Host**

"POPE ANNALISA is a absorbing, powerful, thought provoking book. If you are looking for adventure....passion...spirit...this is a dynamic summer read to feed your soul and mind. I highly recommend POPE ANNALISA...Peter is one of the most gifted storytellers of our time and this book should be in your library."-- **David Matthew Brown ALSP Radio Host of INSIDE OUT**

## WHAT POPE ANNALISA IS ABOUT

Pope Annalisa the first book of a trilogy entitled *The First Souls*. It is a groundbreaking thriller about an African nun who breaks racial, political, and religious barriers in becoming the world's first female pope. She is faced with terrorism, religious clashes, Western society's loss of faith, the struggle between science and religion for the human mind, and impending nuclear war.

The response to these opposing forces is the revelation of a genuine, near-lost Western spiritual tradition that poses a middle ground of salvation. The information recovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Gnostic gospels in the Middle East just after WW II are just now registering in the public consciousness. Pope Annalisa predicts that these findings will help to create a new spiritual vision that will transcend the limitations of mainstream religion and secular, scientific materialism.

### FROM THE POPE ANNALISA WEBSITE:

What forces were at work when the unthinkable became reality and an African nun was elected the first female pope? Amid conflicting prophecies of destruction and renewal she came. She is a healer, a miracle worker, a captivator of men's souls. But when demonic-looking symbols begin appearing around the Vatican upon her arrival, were her enemies correct about her being the prophesied figure who will destroy the Church and lead the world order to ruin?

Is Annalisa, the first female pope, restoring the lost feminine legacy of Christianity or is she using her disarming femininity to resurrect the most dreaded heresy the Church ever faced? Is she truly reviving the secret knowledge Jesus taught that unleashed a torrent of miracles in biblical days, a transformative teaching so powerful that it had to be suppressed by the early Church?

Is Annalisa concealing some hidden agenda? Is she harboring a deadly force? Something certainly dwells within the new female pope. As the world nears nuclear holocaust, four people must race against time to learn her secret. Their quest will not only uncover the shocking truth about her, but about themselves, and in doing so they will touch upon the very origin and destiny of humanity.

As sinister hidden forces from within her own church and terrorism from without rear their heads, one thing becomes crystal clear—Pope Annalisa is at the very center of all the deadly plots within plots in a world where nothing is as it seems. And though it was a miracle for a woman to become pope, it will be a far greater miracle if she survives.

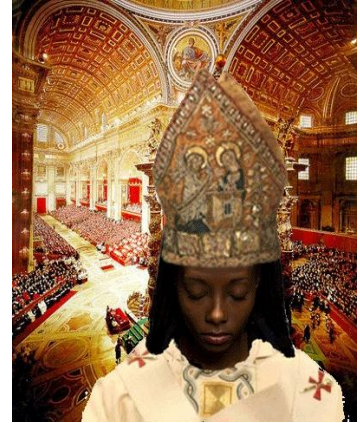
Live with the fascinating characters of Pope Annalisa as they face numerous dangers in unraveling the real, monumental mysteries of history that lie at the very foundation of our Western world. The ultimate prize may be the unlocking of a higher consciousness and a new view of reality that could redirect our evolution to save us from the errors of our past and the potential destruction of our future.



## WHY POPE ANNALISA IS A STANDOUT WORK OF FICTION

### SOME BOOKS CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES; POPE ANNALISA CAPTURES A NEW VISION OF SPIRIT

- POPE ANNALISA is above all a page-turning thriller
- POPE ANNALISA is written with strong content and style. Advance readings of the book by editors, authors, book marketing professionals, and readers have produced universally superlative comments because the novel presents sophisticated subject matter delivered through an accessible and enjoyable story
- POPE ANNALISA addresses current problems within a classic adventure story. It deals with external threats such as terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear weapons among hostile nations. It also exposes cultural divides within the Western world between genders, between races, between science and faith, between secularism and religion. Most uniquely, it reconciles these opposing forces by pointing to a new vision of reality and what it means to be human
- POPE ANNALISA furthers and deepens a well established literary trend. The Da Vinci Code identified a huge market thirsting for the veiled mysteries behind our commonly accepted religious notions; The Celestine Prophecies gave practical answers. POPE ANNALISA is the intersection of the Da Vinci Code and The Celestine Prophecies. It provides painstakingly researched answers rooted in a veiled spiritual history with a story that rivets the reader from beginning to end.
- POPE ANNALISA takes years of research and brings it to where no fiction has gone before. It reveals a genuine, recently discovered spiritual tradition suppressed in the Western world. The impact of the recovered Dead Sea Scrolls and Gnostic gospels is only now being understood and its profound implications integrated into the consciousness of the modern world. It is a salvific vision based on spirit and science. POPE ANNALISA is on the cutting edge of defining this transformative movement





## **TEN SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO ASK PETER ABOUT POPE ANNALISA**

1. What is Pope Annalisa about?
2. What makes Pope Annalisa different from other thrillers?
3. How did ancient mystics anticipate findings off modern science?
4. What is The First Souls Trilogy?
5. What qualifies you to write on these subjects?
6. Why did you choose an African female pope as the main character of your book?
7. What is the primary message you are trying to convey to your readers?
8. How does Pope Annalisa treat Christianity, Catholicism, and the Christian story?
9. Can you define the ancient, universal mystical wisdom tradition?
10. Is Pope Annalisa a take-off of the Da Vinci code?

## **SUGGESTED TOPICS ON WHICH PETER CAN SPEAK**

1. Mary Magdalene—lost Judeo/Christian feminine spirituality
2. The Universal Spiritual Tradition underlying all major religions
3. Gnosticism—the repressed Christian mystical tradition
4. The intersections of myth and science
5. Spirituality vs. religion. How spirit transcends religion
6. Jungian Psychology and ancient Gnosticism
7. The lost Genesis story
8. Women and the early Church—how women were written out of the Bible
9. Kabbalah, Sufism, and Gnosticism—the union of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
10. Was there a secret teaching of Jesus and other prophets?

## PETER CANOVA

At the age of twenty-three, Peter Canova first realized his abilities to do intuitive medical readings, remote viewing, psychokinesis and other “psychic” phenomena. This led him to a conviction that all humanity, and all life, is interconnected at an unseen level. As he traveled four different continents for his work, a variety of spiritual figures entered his life unsolicited thereby reaffirming this belief.



Peter started writing in earnest after he stopped working for eight months to take care of his wife who was battling cancer at the time. He combined his love of writing with his spiritual background and his travels to produce a fictional work entitled **The First Souls Trilogy**. The trilogy concerns the first fall of spirit into material existence as told through the lives of characters whose incarnations appear over different epochs of history. **Pope Annalisa**, the first book, tells of an African nun who becomes the first female pope in a near future world headed for self-destruction.

The overarching theme of **Pope Annalisa** and the trilogy deals with the origin, destiny, and purpose of humanity. It concerns spirit transcending religion, the lost mystical traditions of early Christianity, the suppressed role of women in spiritual history, and the intersection of modern science and ancient mysticism to pose a startling new perspective on the true nature of reality.

Several things qualified Peter to handle this project. Communicative writing with clarity and persuasion was essential for his work. These skills helped him break down the book’s complex spiritual ideas into simple and entertaining fiction. He has twenty-five years of voluminous research behind him in both mainstream and alternative religious/spiritual studies, with a particular interest in early Christianity. **Pope Annalisa** was a combination of this research and information channeled in his own meditations.

## POPE ANNALISA SYNOPSIS

Sister **Annalisa Basanjo**, a miracle working nun from the hinterlands of Africa, has always been a controversial figure. The daughter of a Catholic father and Muslim mother, she was raised by a shaman and a German nun. She spent much of her early years in an ecstatic prayer state, (her “still place”) so her own people think of her alternately as blessed, cursed, or even schizophrenic.

She comes to the attention of the Church after performing incredible healings, but the Vatican is wary of her. Prophecies in the Vatican archives speak of a miracle working Great Deceiver whose actions will upset the world order and lead to the demise of the Church. She is also making enemies of radical Islam because a number of Muslims converted to Christianity after her healing miracles.

The world in the year **2025** is on the brink of disaster. The Western world, led by an overly ripe American economy that was slow to kick its oil dependency, is mired in a seemingly permanent recession. Iran has secretly gone nuclear, and the Iranians are leading a consortium of oil producing countries in concluding a pact with China. That agreement will starve America by blocking American access to the world’s remaining depleted oil reserves. Islamic terrorist bombings are sweeping American and European cities as the terrorists sense Western weakness.

Annalisa heals Pope Clement XV when he is felled by a stroke. Clement has an epiphany and makes her the first female Catholic cardinal. She encounters much hostility from other cardinals, but she has some supporters including **Pietro Cardinal Roncalli**, the papal secretary. But demonic looking objects begin appearing around the Vatican after Annalisa’s arrival. They seem to be related to the Gnostics, an early branch of Christianity that was eradicated by the orthodox Church as a heresy in the early centuries after Christ. It falls on four people to decipher the mystery of the symbols and find if they are related to Annalisa—Roncalli, his friend, **Monsignor Desmond O’Keefe**, head of the Vatican Library; **Teresa Ferentinos**, a religious scholar and international news reporter; and **Robert Avernis**, an American CIA liaison assigned to the Vatican.

The connection of these people with Annalisa and their seemingly entwined destinies had begun earlier in Africa prior to Annalisa becoming a cardinal. Roncalli, Teresa, and Avernis met at a massacre site where a Christian village had been wiped out by terrorists, a site Annalisa had just visited. The local bishop proclaimed to them that the tragedy was yet another action that could be attributed to Annalisa’s evil influence. Later that week, Teresa and Avernis were drawn together when they barely survived a terrorist bomb attack on a local hotel, and it was Teresa who broke the story of Annalisa’s early life.

Annalisa thwarts a number of attempts to have her expelled as a cardinal, but then Pope Clement dies and a new pontiff must be chosen. At the conclave to elect the new pope terrorists infiltrate the Sistine Chapel. They threaten to blow up the chapel and everyone inside if the cardinals deny their severe ransom demands, but after a private meeting with Annalisa, the invaders inexplicably agree to leave. They even kneel before her and kiss her hand as they depart. Annalisa refuses to divulge to the shocked cardinals how she persuaded them to give up. Roncalli spontaneously nominates her for the papacy.

The conclave is divided over Annalisa’s nature. Some think of her as the Holy Spirit, other as wholly evil. Annalisa’s opponents attack her character and charge, among other things, that she was pregnant as an unwed girl of fifteen. Annalisa, with great calm and dignity, reveals that her uncle raped her. Her life story is so poignant and spiritually compelling and her saving of the conclave so miraculous that the cardinals narrowly elect her pope on a wave of deep emotion.

After Annalisa becomes pope, it seems that her opponents and the prophecies may have been right all along. Annalisa’s first actions reverse two thousand years of settled Catholic doctrine and practice. Fully one half of all Church bishops and dioceses refuse to recognize her authority. They move to form a new Church under Annalisa’s chief Vatican opponent, **Heinrich Cardinal Mannheim**.

Meanwhile, a sinister, ultra-conservative Catholic order, Milites Domini, engineers an enormous fraud, secretly stripping the Church of most of its funds. Milites Domini attempts to buy the papacy by extorting the Vatican with the weakened Church’s own money. Furthermore, **Bishop Alvaro**, the Milites leader, has influenced his protégé, the newly elected American president, to declare war on Iran with the ultimate aim of a nuclear strike to permanently end Iran’s rising influence.

Annalisa responds to each of the crises with determination. Instead of excommunicating the rebellious Church elements as her advisors urge, she embarks on a global crusade. She preaches a radically personal and empowering form of early Christianity destroyed by the orthodox catholic Church in the first centuries AD. Her “new way” gradually wins over public opinion and the opposition is quelled, but her enemies both inside and outside the Church are galvanized against her.

As the world heads for a nuclear conflagration, Annalisa flies to Tehran to negotiate with the fanatic Iranian religious leader, Ayatollah Havenei. Prior to leaving for Tehran, Annalisa gathers Roncalli, O’Keefe, Teresa, and Avernis. She leads them in an astonishing mystical vision. Not only is her essence and her purpose revealed, but the foursome is shaken to their core upon learning the secret of their connection to her, a connection that deals with the very origin and destiny of humanity.

In Tehran, Havenei won’t relent, and he intends to use Iran’s nuclear weapons on the Americans and Israelis. Annalisa chains herself to a jet fighter on the tarmac of the airport in Tehran, shocking both the Iranians and the international press corps. She stages a hunger strike, threatening to swallow a poison pill if anyone tries to forcibly remove her. Events now flow around the chained pope as both America and Iran are forced to pull back and change directions. Annalisa’s presence in Iran alters the entire course of events in the buildup to the war.

Annalisa’s courageous example soon sparks a worldwide peace movement. The still defiant Havenei confronts a dying Annalisa. She prophesizes his death in two days if he does not rescind his actions and halt the war. Two days later, Hussein accidentally dies from the same biochemical poisons he was about to unleash on the Western powers. Iranian army generals stage a coup and sue for peace. The Western powers are shocked when a critically ill Annalisa refuses to stop the hunger strike until she is sure the West treats the Iranians with a fair and honorable peace. With world opinion on her side, she embarrasses the warring powers into a just peace agreement aimed at solving long-term problems.

The events in Iran have convinced Cardinal Mannheim, the ambitious, autocratic cardinal over whom Annalisa prevailed for the papacy, that Annalisa has manipulated events to set herself up as a false messiah. Mannheim leads a cabal of Vatican Cardinals in an unlikely alliance with Nigerian Muslim terrorists who are outraged at Annalisa’s role in the downfall of their patron, Ayatollah Havenei. Guided by prophecies predicting the downfall of the papacy and Church, the conspiring cardinals believe she is the Anti-Christ and they plot to assassinate her.

Annalisa is gravely wounded and barely survives the assassination. As she recovers, a Sicilian Mafia lawyer, a relative of Robert Avernis, the American CIA agent, approaches him with information about the financial scandal that nearly bankrupted the Vatican a few years before. Pursuing this lead, Avernis uncovers conspiracies within conspiracies. He learns of Milites Domini’s defrauding the Church, the plot of Alvaro and the American president to destroy Iran, and ultimately the Mannheim plot to assassinate Annalisa. This information is used to consolidate the peace process Annalisa had started.

In a dramatic confrontation with Mannheim, Annalisa pardons and forgives him. She tells him that he will be his own harshest judge. Mannheim rejects her forgiveness, but he later hangs himself. Recovering from her ordeal, Annalisa is at the height of her popularity, yet she abdicates the papacy. She tells Roncalli she wants to “go home.” She startles Roncalli by telling him if she goes further with her reforms, she will be considered a heretic whose beliefs differ too much from accepted Church dogmas. She tells Roncalli: “... *it is best for the Church that I leave at this time. Enough light illuminates, too much burns.*” By implication, Annalisa predicts that Roncalli will be the next pope. In a move vindicating Annalisa’s papacy, the College of Cardinals does indeed elect Roncalli as Pope Valentinus I, thereby insuring that Annalisa’s reforms will be consolidated.

Shortly after her departure, Valentinus receives news of Annalisa’s death, now knowing what she meant by going home. In her final letter, Annalisa asks never to be canonized as a saint because, “*each person is an expression of the living God in equal measure.*” Valentinus commemorates Annalisa at a funeral mass. In an unprecedented outpouring of love, people of all nations gather to honor the woman who moved humanity a few steps closer to the source from where it came.