



BRAVAZZO!

A FIASCO PLAYSET

PDO1 BRAVAZZO!

CREDITS

Written by Pete Douglas.

BOILERPLATE

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This playset is an accessory for the [Fiasco](#) role-playing game by [Bully Pulpit Games](#).

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THE SCORE

FERRARA, 1435

Bravazzo! is set in the Italian city-state of Ferrara in 1435 at the dawning of the Renaissance.

It fuses together the vain ambitions of the nobility, the desperate brutality of the peasantry, the venal profiteering of the merchants, and the mystical corruption of the priesthood in a *con-fuse-ion* of double-dealing, back-stabbing, empire-building, and courtly intrigue at a time when the Reason of Man was slowly emerging from the darkness of the Middle Ages.

Players will assume the roles of corrupt bishops, murderous nobility, ambitious bankers, pious priests, desperate brigands, virginal maidens, and coarse peasants, in a sordid medieval fiasco.

MOVIE NIGHT

Shakespeare's plays, *Ridicule*, *The Name of the Rose*

BOOK CLUB

The Count of Monte Cristo, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, *The Baroque Cycle*

RELATIONSHIPS

1 RELIGIOUS

- Confessor to a sinner
- We are pilgrims making pilgrimage in Ferrara
- We took holy orders together
- Papal inquisitor and heretic
- Priest and parishioner
- Holy mystic and adherent

2 FAMILY

- Siblings
- Father and bastard
- Family by arranged marriage
- Distant relatives through obscure heritage
- We don't know we are related, but we are
- Parent and child

3 FRIENDSHIP

- Rivals at court
- Childhood friends now torn apart by old family feuds
- Star-crossed lovers
- A shared ambition binds us together
- Highly unlikely friends
- Firm but hugely competitive friends

4 PEASANTRY

- ◻ Lowly servants of the nobility
- ◻ Convicted criminals, previous recipients of secular justice
- ◻ We are landless brigands
- ◻ Young bravos with only courage and sword to earn their fortune
- ◻ We are peasant farmers who break our backs feeding the nobility
- ◻ A village girl who provides the sole income for her family

5 PROFESSIONAL

- ◻ Innkeeper and servant
- ◻ Master and student (dancing, fencing, music, courting, etc.)
- ◻ A patron of the arts and an artist of genius
- ◻ Tradesman and apprentice (stonemason, sword smith, tailor, etc.)
- ◻ Rival merchant-bankers
- ◻ Assassins with the same mark

6 COURT

- ◻ We are fellow cogs in the machine of war (cook, dogsbody, courier, etc.)
- ◻ Spy master and spy
- ◻ Rival ambassadors from the courts of other European powers
- ◻ Swiss mercenaries
- ◻ We are court functionaries (castellan, minstrel, jester, etc.)
- ◻ Lady and her lady-in-waiting

... IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

NEEDS

1 TO WIN RENOWN

- ... as a great lover of women
- ... as a duellist without peer
- ... as a man whom God loves like His own Son
- ... as someone not to be trifled with
- .. as someone who sacrificed their all for love
- ... as the victor in a great battle

2 REVENGE AGAINST

- ... the fools who humiliated us
- ... the sibling who's crazed ambition will ruin you all
- ... a rich and powerful noble
- ... an indiscreet lover
- ... the bravo who so cavalierly ruined your friend
- ... those priests who damn good folk to hell

3 TO GET RICH

- ... by marrying into one of the houses of the old nobility
- ... by trusting that God will reward His Godly servant
- ... by murdering those of my family who stand in my way
- ... by blackmail
- ... by profiting from the wars
- ... through a theft of surpassing audacity

4 TO WOO

- ... the object of my heart's most fervent desire
- ... the wife of my enemy and make her fat with my seed
- ... and win the hand of someone of noble birth
- ... one of my own sex to sate the urgings of my ungodly flesh
- ... the daughter whose father will pay the largest dowry
- ... the Mademoiselle de Ferrant, whose purity will make sweet the pricking

5 RESPECT

- ... from your venerable father
- ... from God who greatly desires to redeem your blackened soul
- ... from your jealous and vengeful peers
- ... from the nobility
- ... from the common people, by championing their cause
- ... from the many lovers who you have cast by the wayside

6 THE TRUTH

- ... about the Archbishop da Mosta's candidacy for the Papacy
- ... about a brutal burning at the stake
- ... about your parentage
- ... about the dark secret that hangs over the nobility of Ferrara
- ... about the shame that stains your family name
- ... about the disappearance of the Mademoiselle Luchezzi

... IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

LOCATIONS

1 THE CASTELLO ESTENSE

- The Government Room
- The Garden of the Oranges
- The Duke's bedchamber and surrounds
- The Hall of Games
- The dungeons
- The Lion's Fortress

2 THE CHURCH HOLDINGS

- The residences of the priesthood
- Saint George's Basilica
- The roadside cross just outside the city walls
- The quiet gloom of Ferrara cemetery
- The stalls of the confessional that reek of incense and whispered shame
- The monastery of Sant'Antonio

3 FERRARA ITSELF

- The austere banking offices of the House of Medici
- The bustling market square of the Palazzo Comunale
- The small yet opulent ghetto of the Jews
- The fragrant salon of the erudite Madame de Brazzi
- The great stone city walls, pitted and scarred from countless battles
- The Teatro Laceyò, a theatre crammed with gaudy entertainments

4 THE BACK ALLEYS

- ◻ A smoke-filled, spit-and-sawdust *osteria* (tavern)
- ◻ Tangled muddy streets threaded through the cramped housing of the poor
- ◻◻ Madame Orbizzo's House of Fragrant Courtesans
- ◻◻ The pungent river wharf where life is lazy and crude
- ◻◻◻ A quiet house, wherein a corpse lies swaddled in cloth
- ◻◻◻ The snarling pigs and grimy ordure of the communal rubbish pits

5 THE COUNTRYSIDE

- ◻ The grazing pastures of the Duke's herds
- ◻ The ruined Roman fort
- ◻◻ The forest cave dwelling of a holy hermit
- ◻◻ The roadside inn wreathed in greasy smoke
- ◻◻◻ The rutted causeway known as the Devil's Backbone
- ◻◻◻ The Duke's vineyards where the vines hang heavy with fat grapes

6 THE RIVER PO

- ◻ The stinking tannery
- ◻ The Ponte Este (a sturdy stone bridge)
- ◻◻ The splendid home of the river pilot Renatto
- ◻◻ The marshy and mist-covered lowlands of the Po Delta
- ◻◻◻ The village of the coarse local fishermen
- ◻◻◻ The picturesque flood meadows

... **IN RENAISSANCE ITALY**

OBJECTS

1 RELIGIOUS

- A Papal Bull
- A splinter from the True Cross of the Risen Christ
- The personalised prayer-book of a noble lady
- A wondrously illuminated Bible
- The finger bones of a martyr
- A plain wooden rosary

2 INFORMATION

- A letter of Excommunication from the Holy Roman Church
- The gossip of the Master of the Duke's Bedchamber
- The signed terms of a secret military alliance
- Letters of love that make mention of unnatural longings
- The transcript of the last confession of the Archbishop of Ravenna
- The testimony of the filthiest of whores

3 TRANSPORTATION

- An exotic Eastern sedan chair
- A great metal flying machine, a most wondrous contraption!
- A lumbering peasant wagon
- An ornate carriage
- A spirited Arabian palfrey
- A richly outfitted river barge

4 WEAPONS

- ◻ A herd of pigs with a taste for meat
- ◻ A garrotte greased with human fat
- ◻◻ A paid assassin from faraway Arabia, dusky of skin and cruel of mien
- ◻◻ A phial of a “*most cruel and agonising*” poison
- ◻◻ A deep pit filled with sharp stakes and lime
- ◻◻◻ A *misericorde*

5 ODD

- ◻ A choir of castrati
- ◻ Wondrous plans for a great metal flying machine
- ◻◻ A freakish cripple reputedly from the Kingdom of Prestor John
- ◻◻ The Satanic journals of a heretic alchemist
- ◻◻◻ A cockerel with the face of the Madonna visible in the feathers
- ◻◻◻ A bloated and stinking corpse hauled from the river

6 VALUABLES

- ◻ A richly illuminated book of Byzantine pornography
- ◻ An extant copy of Aristotle's Second Book of Poetics
- ◻◻ A hermaphrodite courtesan, skilled in many forms of erotic pleasure
- ◻◻ One half of a treasure map
- ◻◻ A savage lion in a gilded cage
- ◻◻◻ A fabulous necklace bedecked with rubies “*fat as hens eggs*”

... IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

A RENAISSANCE INSTA SETUP

RELATIONSHIPS IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

For three players...

- Father and bastard
- Confessor to a sinner
- Assassins with the same mark

For four players, add...

- Star-crossed lovers

For five players, add...

- We don't know we are related, but we are

NEEDS IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

For three players...

- The truth: ... about the dark secret that hangs over the nobility of Ferrara

For four or five players, add...

- To woo: ... the wife of my enemy and make her fat with my seed

LOCATIONS IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

For three or four players...

- The Teatro Lacey, a theatre crammed with gaudy entertainments

For five players, add...

- The stalls of the confessional that reek of incense and whispered shame

OBJECTS IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

For any number of players...

- A richly illuminated book of Byzantine pornography