



Alois Brandstetter

## ALUIGI'S PROTRAIT

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### The incredible tale of an extremely chaste saint, his portrait and the painters Rubens and Van Dyck

Witty and inquisitive, Alois Brandstetter goes in search of his patron saint and namesake Aloysius. The journey takes him to Mantua in Italy at the turn of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The thoroughly chaste Aluigi, who died young, has just been beatified, and his mother is looking to have his portrait painted for the new church being built in his name. The job is offered to Rubens of all people, whose work celebrates the pleasures of the flesh, but he turns it down and recommends the boy wonder Van Dyck, nineteen and highly talented. Letters fly between Mantua and Amsterdam. Will Aluigi's Portrait ever be painted? Perhaps not on canvas but certainly in the form of an enchanting historical fantasy created by Alois Brandstetter.

## ALOIS BRANDSTETTER

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born in 1939 in Pichl, lives and works as a freelance writer in Klagenfurt. Numerous awards; f.e. the "Wilhelm-Raabe-Prize" 1984, the "Heinrich-Gleißner-Prize" 1994, the "Adalbert-Stifter-Prize" and the "Cultural Prize of Upper Austria" 2005.