



## CHAPTER 30.

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# THE TREVI FOUNTAIN: ANITA EKBERG, FELLINI & LA DOLCE VITA

1960

It is one of the most compelling moments in cinematic history: a triumph of gloriously sculpted white travertine stone, towering sea gods and writhing stallions, colliding with a modern goddess of ivory flesh and heavenly hourglass proportions. In the legendary Trevi Fountain scene of the 1960s classic, *La Dolce Vita*, the statuesque Swedish sex bomb Anita Ekberg, in the role of Sylvia, wades through the water in a strapless black dress, her voluptuous breasts framed by a sensuous blonde mane. The episode clings to the collective memory of the Baroque fountain, which like Ekberg, is a work of abundant curves.

Director Federico Fellini chose the larger-than-life Scandinavian beauty as a symbol of Italy's post-war "economic miracle", a period of prosperity in which excessive materialism and decadence fostered meaninglessness and cynicism.

Ekberg's powerful presence matched the strong emotions he had for his adopted city.

"Rome became my home as soon as I saw it. I was born that moment," he