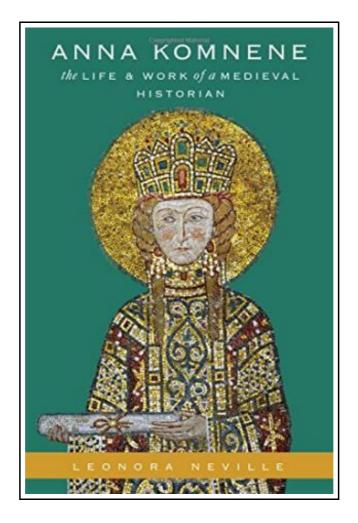
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ANNA KOMNENE: THE LIFE AND WORK OF A MEDIEVAL HISTORIAN (HARDBACK)



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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book. Byzantine princess Anna Komnene is known for two things: plotting to murder her brother to usurp the throne, and writing the Alexiad, an epic history of her father Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118) that is a key historical source for the era of the First Crusade. Anna Komnene: the Life and Work of a Medieval Historian investigates the relationship between Anna s self-presentation in the Alexiad and the story of her bloodthirsty ambition. It begins by asking why women did not write history in Anna s society, what cultural rules Anna broke by doing so, and how Anna tried to respond to those challenges in her writing. Many of the idiosyncrasies and surprises of Anna s Alexiad are driven by her efforts to be perceived as both a good historian and a good woman. These new interpretations of Anna s authorial persona then spark a thorough re-thinking of the standard story which defines Anna s life by the failure of her supposed political ambitions. The second half of this work reviews the medieval sources with fresh eyes and re-establishes Anna s primary identity as an author and intellectual rather than as a failed conspirator.

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