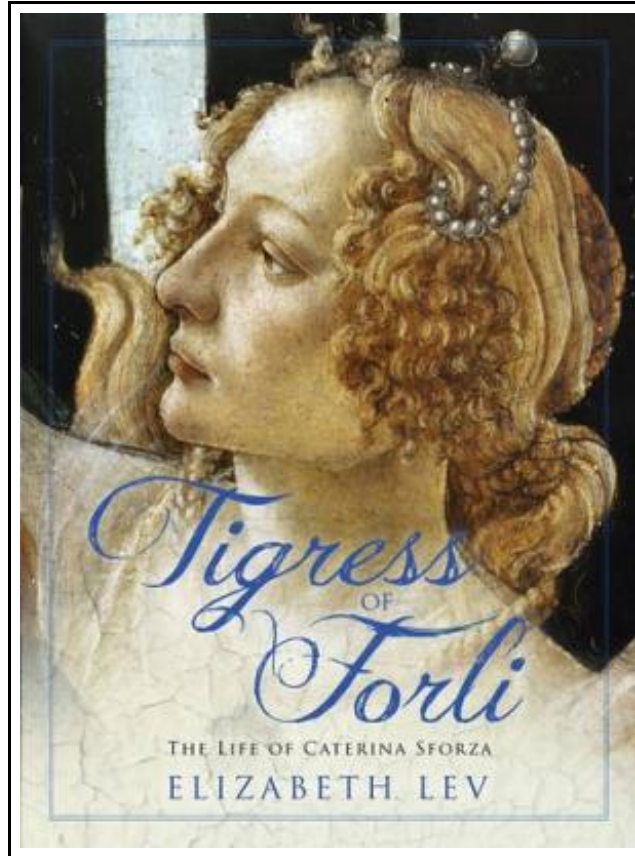


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TIGRESS OF FORLÌ;: THE LIFE OF CATERINA SFORZA



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Head of Zeus. 1 Cloth(s), 2012. hard. Book Condition: New. A strategist to match Machiavelli (with whom she had an affair), a warrior who stood toe to toe with the Borgias, a wife whose three marriages would end in bloodshed and heartbreak, and a mother determined to maintain her family's honor, Caterina Riario Sforza de' Medici (1463-1509) was a true leading lady of the Renaissance, both beloved and vilified. In this dazzling biography, Renaissance scholar and art historian Elizabeth Lev illuminates the extraordinary life and career of the Tigress of Forlì, the mother of Italian hero Giovanni dalle Bande Nere and grandmother of Cosimo de' Medici. "Well-written and meticulously researched, *The Tigress of Forlì* re-creates the world of Renaissance Italy in all its grandeur and violence. Mother, warrior, and icon, Caterina is unforgettable, and so is the exciting story that Elizabeth Lev tells here." Barry Strauss "An engrossing biography of one of Renaissance Italy's most accomplished powerbrokers. Few people were better able to navigate the sea of shifting alliances and internecine squabbles that characterized 15th-century Italy. All the more remarkable is that she was able to do it in an era when all of her rivals were men. Widowed by three husbands two of them assassinated before her eyes Sforza ruled over the province of Forlì as regent for her young son Ottaviano, and was reviled, admired and feared in equal measure by popes, foreign powers and her own subjects alike. Lev deftly explores the psychological strains endured by the Countess, from her first marriage to a diffident and cowardly nephew of Pope Sixtus IV, to the murder of her beloved second husband and the merciless vengeance she took upon the conspirators, to her heroic and single-handed defense of her city from the Venetians and her ultimate imprisonment in the dungeons of Cesare Borgia....



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