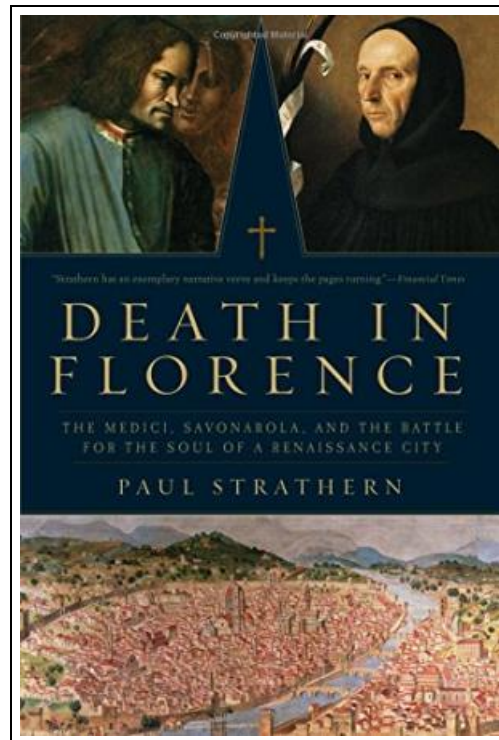


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DEATH IN FLORENCE: THE MEDICI, SAVONAROLA, AND THE BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF A RENA

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Pegasus/BOMC. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of the Somerset Maugham Awardwinning novel *A Season in Abyssinia* and the nonfiction Aventis Prize finalist *Mendeleyev's Dream* here recasts the culture wars and political struggles of late 15th-century Florence as a signal moment in modern history. Lorenzo de' Medici and his family embodied the progressive humanist spirit of the Renaissance, patronizing great artists while guiding vulnerable Florence through Italy's ever-shifting political alliances. The monk Savonarola, however, inspired a disenfranchised public with Old Testament prophecies of doom, hoping to establish a new, democratic "City of God." Paul Strathern's superbly written account explores the complex dynamics of their battle for Florence. "This is more than a dual biography. It's a social and religious history, showing the tension that still holds between secularism and religion. A riveting narrative history." *Booklist* (starred review) "What stands out as much as anything here is the spark and quality of Strathern's writing. In a single sentence, Strathern captures the broad currents of civic history, the magnetic presence of a remarkable individual, and the specificity of a liturgical and biographical occasion. An engrossing narrative of power, corruption and civic life, a vivid portrait of a city in crisis and the spiritual leader who embodied its aspirations and flaws." *Washington Post* "Fans of television shows such as *The Borgias* and *The Tudors*, or even *Game of Thrones*, will find no end of entertainment in this in-depth chronicle of the real-life events of the Medici family in Renaissance Florence. Lovers of medieval history will be pulled into this informative and gripping account; academics will find it a credible source of historical knowledge. Strathern's approachable, objective style turns a litany of information into a spellbinding saga worthy of prime time. A thrilling and informative chronicle of one of the Renaissance's most notorious dynasties." *Library Journal* (starred...

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