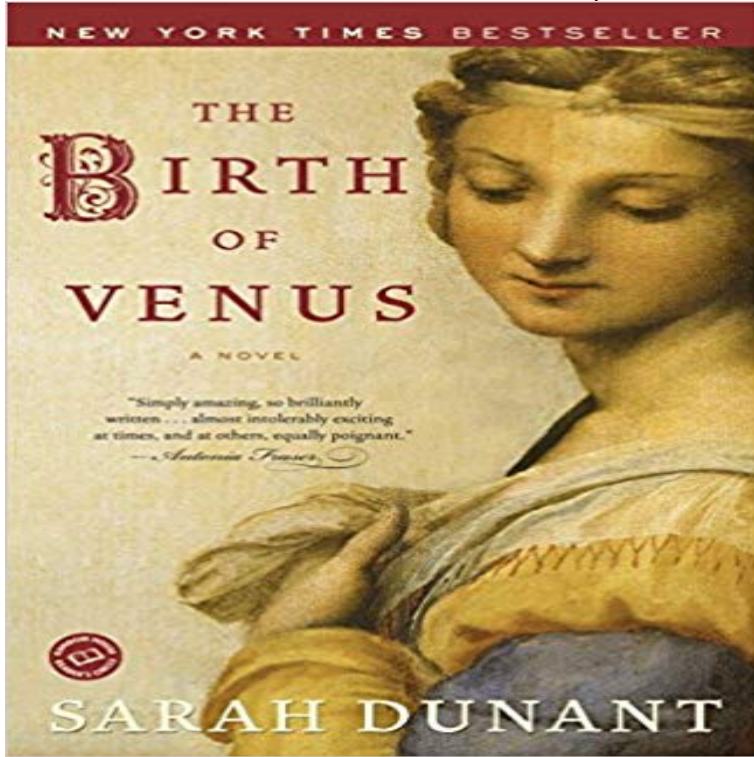


The Birth of Venus: A Novel (Readers Circle)



Alessandra Cecchi is not quite fifteen when her father, a prosperous cloth merchant, brings a young painter back from northern Europe to decorate the chapel walls in the family's Florentine palazzo. A child of the Renaissance, with a precocious mind and a talent for drawing, Alessandra is intoxicated by the painter's abilities. But their burgeoning relationship is interrupted when Alessandra's parents arrange her marriage to a wealthy, much older man. Meanwhile, Florence is changing, increasingly subject to the growing suppression imposed by the fundamentalist monk Savonarola, who is seizing religious and political control. Alessandra and her native city are caught between the Medici state, with its love of luxury, learning, and dazzling art, and the hellfire preaching and increasing violence of Savonarola's reactionary followers. Played out against this turbulent backdrop, Alessandra's married life is a misery, except for the surprising freedom it allows her to pursue her powerful attraction to the young painter and his art. *The Birth of Venus* is a tour de force, the first historical novel from one of Britain's most innovative writers of literary suspense. It brings alive the history of Florence at its most dramatic period, telling a compulsively absorbing story of love, art, religion, and power through the passionate voice of Alessandra, a heroine with the same vibrancy of spirit as her beloved city.

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Kindle in - 7 secRead PDF And Download For Free <http://?book> Chapter 1. One Looking back now, i see it more as an act of pride than kindness that my father brought the young painter back with him from the North that springA Novel Sarah Dunant. She writes like a painter, and thinks like a philosopher: juxtapositioning the humane against the animal, hope against fanaticism,The Birth of Venus is a tour de force, the first historical novel from one of The Birth of Venus (Random House Readers Circle Deluxe Reading Group Edition). The Birth of Venus (Random House Readers Circle Deluxe Reading Access them as you read the novel or as supplemental material after