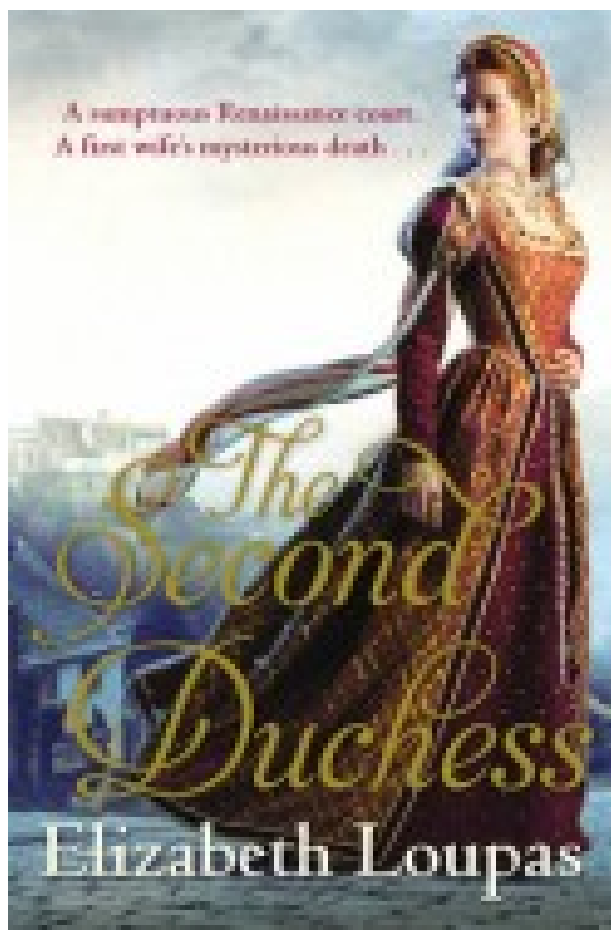


The Second Duchess



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This is a dazzling tale of love, sumptuous splendour and conspiracy in the Italian Renaissance court of Ferrara, from the brilliant author of *The Flower Reader*. Barbara of Austria is plain, quick-witted and sensible. She also desperately needs a husband, for unmarried at twenty-six, she is about to be packed off to a convent, like her sisters before her. So it is that she seizes what seems to be her last chance - a proposal of marriage from Alfonso d'Este, Duke of Ferrara, Lucrezia Borgia's grandson, clever, handsome, powerful - and widely believed to have murdered his first wife, Lucrezia de Medici. Barbara goes into her marriage clear-eyed, fascinated by her dangerous, enigmatic new husband - and increasingly - recklessly - driven to discover the truth about the death of his first duchess.

«Hertugen og hertuginnen er glade for å dele et nytt bilde av prinsesse Charlotte for å markere hennes andre bursdag i morgen», skriver de i innlegget. «Hertugen og hertuginnen er glade for å dele et nytt bilde av prinsesse Charlotte for å markere hennes andre bursdag i morgen», skriver de i innlegget.

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