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 Age: 12 up-; Grades: 7 up

*A daring heroine, a lavish Italian setting, a star-crossed romance—this stirring novel from acclaimed adult writer Barbara Quick is perfect for the many teen fans of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *A Countess Below Stairs*.*

A Golden Web

By Barbara Quick

Alessandra is desperate to escape—from her stepmother, who's locked her away for a year; from the cloister that awaits her if she refuses the marriage plans that have been made for her; from the expectations that limit her and every other girl in fourteenth-century Italy. There's no tolerance in her village for her keen intelligence and her unconventional ideas.

In defiant pursuit of her dreams, Alessandra undertakes an audacious quest, her bravery equaled only by the dangers she faces. Disguised and alone in a city of spies and scholars, Alessandra will find a love she could not foresee—and an enduring fame.

In this exquisite imagining of the centuries-old story of Alessandra Giliani, the world's first female anatomist, distinguished novelist Barbara Quick gives readers the drama, romance, and rich historical detail for which she is known as she shines a light on an unforgotten—and unforgettable—heroine.

"A Golden Web is pure gold. This is a gripping plot blessed with gifted writing."
 —Grace Cavalieri, Producer/Host, "The Poet and the Poem from the Library of Congress"

Author Bio

Barbara Quick is the author of *Vivaldi's Virgins* and *Northern Edge*, winner of the Discover Prize. *A Golden Web* is her first book for teen readers. She lives in Berkeley, CA. You can visit her online at www.barbaraquick.com.