Emotions depend on language, cultural practices, expectation, and moral beliefs. Since emotional life tends to color the life of the intellect, the effects of hate, fear, cruelty, and love are regularly witnessed in the annals of history. This fascinating study of emotion in Renaissance Italy tracks the means by which emotions are created and conditioned by society. The contributors examine, among other topics, the emotional language of Renaissance urban society, and discourse around public execution, religious practices, and outbreaks of disease.

Fabrizio Ricciardelli is director and professor of Renaissance European History at Kent State University, Florence. He received his first university degree in history at the University of Florence and his Ph.D. from the University of Warwick. His research focuses on Italian city-states when they were strikingly unusual features of the social landscape of late medieval Europe, distinguished by the sophistication of their economic activities, the forms of government they adopted, their rich cultural life, and their unusual social structure.

Andrea Zorzi is professor of Medieval History at the University of Florence. In 1993 he was fellow at Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rome, in 1994 at the Warburg Institute in London, and in 1996-97 at The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. In 1998, Andrea founded the e-journal *Reti Medievali: Online Initiatives for Medieval Studies*, for which he continues to serve as the editor-in-chief. Since 2006 he has been a member of the Scientific Committee of Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medio Evo. His research focuses on Italian political history of the late Middle Ages.