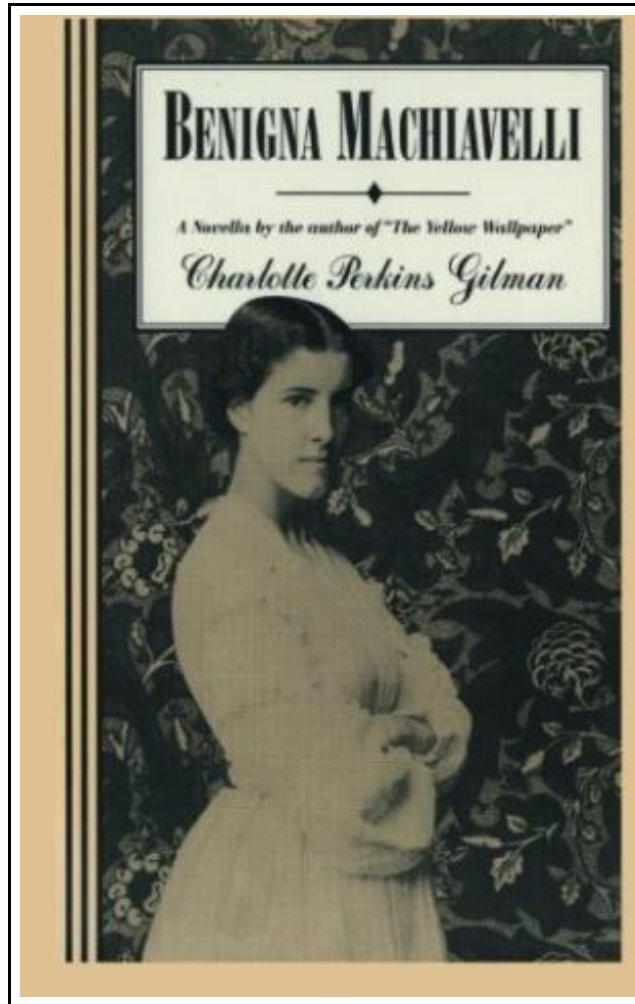


Benigna Machiavelli (Paperback)



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Reviews

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BENIGNA MACHIAVELLI (PAPERBACK)



Bandanna Books, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 213 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Benigna Machiavelli has never before been published in its entirety in book form. It was first published by Charlotte Perkins Gilman in *The Forerunner* (Vol. 5, 1914), a magazine which she wrote, edited, and produced every month from 1906 to 1916. The novella was serialized a chapter an issue. The *Forerunner* cost \$1.00 per issue, and was in a 7 x 10, 28-page format. The circulation averaged 1,500 subscribers a year, including many in Europe, also some in India and Australia. Gilman stated she did not aim in the least at literary virtuosity, she was interested in ideas. The main idea expressed in *Benigna* is the story of a benign Machiavellian girl/woman, a good villain, as *Benigna* phrases it. Having noted in the stories she read as a child that the villains exerted their intellects to accomplish their goals, while the heroes were mostly very stupid and practiced passive virtues, *Benigna* decides to apply her precocious mind to become this good villain -all for everyone's good, of course, at least as *Benigna* sees it. She responds to the sometimes onerous and perplexing life circumstances she observes herself to be in by deciding to take control of her life in highly creative (and manipulative) ways- at a time when women, and especially children, had very little control. *Benigna* is an intensely insightful child, as was no doubt Gilman herself. How much of this story is based on her own life experiences is difficult to say; however there are many similarities. In her autobiography, *The Living of Charlotte Perkins Gilman*, she recounts the anecdote of the experiment to see what would happen if she broke the oppressive silence...



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