



THE FALCON'S EYES

A NOVEL

FRANCESCA
STANFILL



HARPER

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FIRST EDITION

Designed by Nancy Singer

Interior art @aen_seidhe/stock.adobe.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data has been applied for.

ISBN 978-0-06-307422-4

22 23 24 25 26 LSC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I owe an immense debt to the brilliant historians and scholars who have written about Eleanor of Aquitaine, the Plantagenets, and the remarkable twelfth century. While I researched this novel, it was a joy to delve into their works, all the while armed with the novelist's magical prerogative to interpret, enlarge upon, and imagine what might have been. Any factual errors are mine.

I have chosen to mention only a few of the many works I read and consulted. Among the excellent biographies of Eleanor of Aquitaine, I primarily relied upon that of Ralph V. Turner (*Eleanor of Aquitaine*, Yale University Press, 2009). Another profoundly helpful work was the superb collection of essays from a symposium on Eleanor of Aquitaine held at Fontevraud in 2004, and published by *Revue 303, Arts et Recherches*. Its meticulously detailed chronology of Eleanor's life was indispensable, as were its essays, especially those by Martin Aurell, Ursula Vones-Liebenstein, and Alain Erlande-Brandenburg.

The details of King John's foray to Corbridge can be found in *The Annals of Roger de Hoveden: Comprising the History of England and of Other Countries of Europe*, Volume 2, translated from the Latin by Henry T. Riley. The letter from Hildegard to Eleanor is included in *The Personal Correspondence of Hildegard of Bingen* by Joseph L. Baird. The two verses from ballads come from these volumes: the first from *Lark in the Morning: The Verses of the Troubadours*, Ezra Pound, Robert Kehew, W. D. Snodgrass, eds.; the second from *The Poems of the Troubadour Bertran de Born*, Patricia H. Stablein, Tilde Sankovitch, William Doremus Paden, eds. *The Art of Falconry*, the thirteenth century study by the astounding Frederick II of Hohenstaufen, remains a crucial source on the subject.

The following works, listed in alphabetical order, were also invaluable:

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 Stetkevych, Jaroslav, *The Hunt in Arabic Poetry*
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 Warren, W.L., *King John*
 Wheeler, Bonnie, and Parsons, John Carmi Parsons, eds., *Eleanor of Aquitaine: Lord and Lady* (Collection of essays by various scholars)