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Brown -- Maarten van Heemskerck and Hendrick Goltzius on Jael's Nail and the Artist's Hand / Peter Scott Brown -- Philips Galle and Hadrianus Junius' Jael: A Biblical Circe and Her Eloquent Riddle / Peter Scott Brown -- Epilogue / Peter Scott Brown.

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## Sommario/riassunto

In *The Riddle of Jael*, Peter Scott Brown offers the first history of the Biblical heroine Jael in medieval and Renaissance art. Jael, who betrayed and killed the tyrant Sisera in the Book of Judges by hammering a tent peg through his brain as he slept under her care, was a blessed murderess and an especially fertile moral paradox in the art of the early modern period. Jael's representations offer insights into key religious, intellectual, and social developments in late medieval and early modern society. They reflect the influence on art of exegesis, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, humanism and moral philosophy, misogyny and the battle of the sexes, the emergence of syphilis, and the Renaissance ideal of the artist.

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