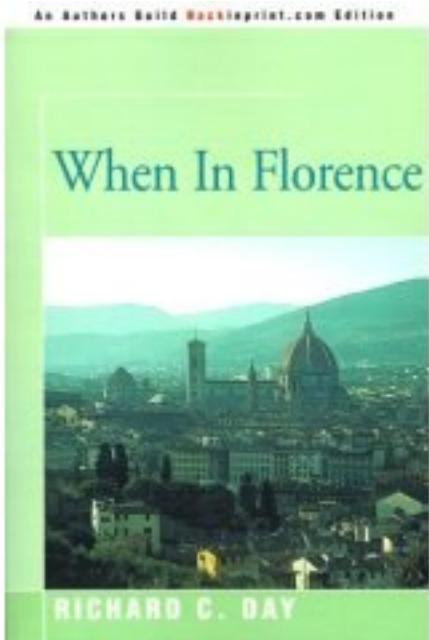


# When in Florence



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The Americans and Italians who come alive in these 15 stories a first collection seem at times almost incidental to the true protagonist: the glorious, monumental, squalid city of Florence itself. The reader is constantly aware of the great ghost poets and painters, sculptors and architects whose presence give Florence its singular character. In the delightful opening tale, "A Chagall Story," a man drops dead in the street, but death is only the prelude as his spirit swoops and swirls through the churches and piazzas looking for the angel who will lead him to heaven. Instead, he learns from a 15th century saint with a Yiddish accent that there is no such place. And the final story, "First Love," describes the sojourn in Boccaccio's city of a feckless, charming American, writing his own decameron-and Tuscan-cookbook, and his adolescent daughter; she undergoes a chaste induction into the arts and sciences under the tutelage of a doting

elderly Italian. The stories move amiably through the middle ranges of experiencesengaging, deftly composed, acutely observant.

作者介绍:

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