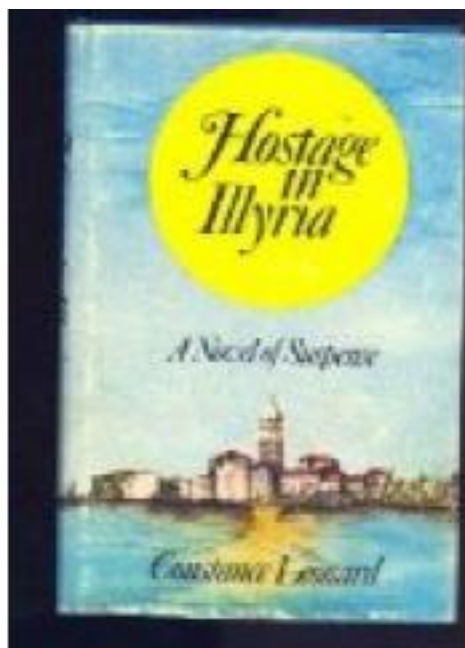


Hostage in Illyria: A novel of suspense



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780396073239

Paul Currier had told her very little about himself, Marianna realized later. A professor on sabbatical, he had had ten years Foreign Service. He was divorced and traveling alone in Yugoslavia, visiting the islands strung out

like stepping stones along the coast. Why didn't she leave her bus tour and come with him? It was a friendly, open suggestion, not a proposition. And Marianna accepted. For almost two years, she had been numb with the grief of her widowhood; now she felt alive again, as attracted to this stranger as he seemed to be to her. That afternoon as they sat in a sunlit café in the island village, she wished her tranquil happiness could last indefinitely. But when she returned to their table after a few minutes absence, Paul had disappeared. Annoyed by her questions, the waiter acted as if he had never existed. And at the hotel, Paul's room was empty, prepared for the next occupant. Heartsick, she decided to take the morning boat to Dubrovnik and rejoin the tour. Anxious about her own plight and with growing fears for Paul's safety, Marianna made the mistake of confiding in Lotte Ludwig, the too vivacious foreigner who earlier had mistaken Paul for his brother, the new Ambassador in Belgrade. Suddenly the beautiful Illyr-

ian coast became a trap, a place for violence and murder, for a deception that had a terrifying motive.

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