

Terry Waite and Ollie North: The Untold Story of the Kidnapping and the Release



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Six months after Terry Waite had been taken hostage1 was in Washington doing the roundsThe visit took in the State Departmentcountless think tanks where former Administration officials reside in exile and those anonymous companies beyond the Beltway where erstwhile Pentagon and Intelligence officials turn former access into profitThrough these revolving doors of influence I sought information on what had befallen the envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury The intention was to make a film for BBC Panorama but the omens were inauspiciousWaite had disappeared into the black hole of BeirutBy I

9 8 7 most Western governments
 had severed their links with the Western part of the Lebanese
 capitalWhat fragments of information emerged amounted
 to little more than rumour
 The American Administrationlike its predecessorhad
 nearly been brought down by the issue of hostagesBy the
 summer after Waites capturehostages had been relegated
 to the take fiotefileInitiatives were deadburied by the
 revelation that the Reagan Administration had traded arms
 for hostagesThe accepted wisdom was that hostages paid
 few political dividendsA silence had fallen on official Wash
 ingtonwith no one seeming to know whether Terry Waite
 ws dead or alive
 1 was concluding yet another fruitless conversation with a
 senior Administration officialwho had only seen me reluc
tantlywhen he saidOur treatment of Waite was shameful
 Why}I asked with some surpriseGo ask Ollie Northhe
 said with a rueful smile and without elaboration
 Northat the timewas the star witness of the Con
 gressional enquiry into what had become known as the Iran-

作者介绍:

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