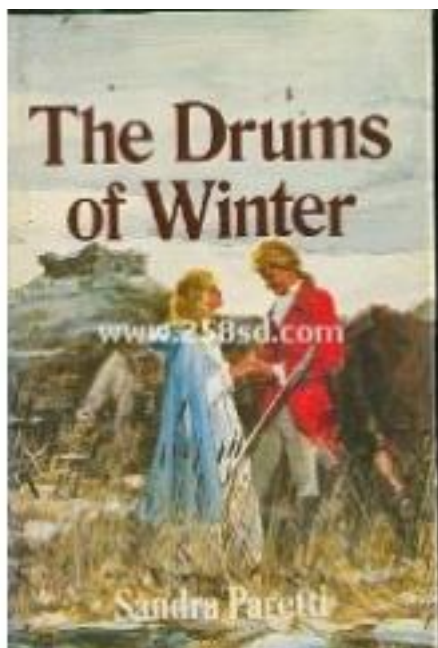


The Drums of Winter



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著者:

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The Deserter
Almost every week there d be new frightening stories of captured deserters who no matter how cunningly they had disguised themselves as sailors or tradesmen or even women or hidden themselves in tuns or barrels or whatever had been caught just the same. Then we had to watch while they were made to run the gaunt-let eight times or more through a corridor of two hundred men until they r collapsed unable to draw another breath--only to have to go through it again the next day.
~
From The Life Story of the Poor Man of Tockenburg Zurich
x789
The cherry trees bloomed for the second time that year and it seemed the summer would never end. The barns could hardly hold the harvest but the earth seemed far from tired; the winter wheat grew so fast the

farmers began to yearn for an early frost¼Œto bring this strange miracle to an end.
 The sheer abundance of the year 1775 made everyone uneasy.
The sky seemed too blue¼Œ the sun too warm¼Œ and it was more than
people could accept. They weren't used to being given anything
at all; they knew that everything they had--property¼Œ freedom¼Œ
life--was theirs only on loan¼Œ and could be taken away at any
time¼Œ without warning. It was a fact they could hardly forget¼Œ
living as they did at the foot of a fortress that was both barracks
and prison in one.
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r¼Œ

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目录:

[The Drums of Winter_ 下载链接1](#)

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