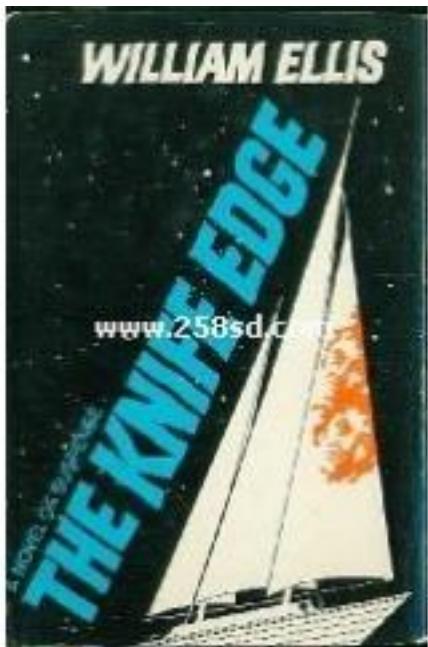


The knife edge



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780802752901

(i)
Total blackness. A tomb within a tomb. She tried
desperately to call out
but no sound came. A suffocat-
ing weight bore down on her
stifling her voice. She
could not see what it was that bestrode her
aware only
that it was evil and terrifying
hanging over her like a
dark pall. She struggled to escape its embrace but her
arms were pinioned and her legs felt leaden and would
not move.
The blackness slid away
like a curtain being drawn
to one side
and a white mistiness filled her vision and
instead of darkness there was light: a clammy lumi-
nosity
claustrophobic as a winding sheet.
And all the while a~ slowi
 rhythmic crunching of
gravel
like ponderous fbotsteps closing in on her
in-
spired a fearful urgency to her petrified struggles and
her soundless cries.
With a final
frenzied effort she burst

through the
nightmare shroud of sleep and sat up. her heart
pounding. A trickle of sweat ran from her neck and
across her breast and she felt the clinging wetness of
her nightdress against her back. She pushed away the
heavy eiderdown and swung her legs over the side of
the bed and sat for a time with her hands resting
against her legs until her breathing became more con-‐trolled. The house was silent
the night air completely
still
only the pounding pulse of blood beating in her
ear drums. She stood up
and to dispel the oppressive
stillness with the commotion of her own movement
walked quickly across to the open window.
A nearly full moon
newly escaped from a billowing
bank of clouds
rode high above a big oak tree
filling
the room with its dead
white glow. From beyond the
cliff she heard the rasping noise of a gentle sea swell
7
li
Et~plno:~
l~.dsoq tq.
~..~
lu~p~.s~d
j.o~Otl.19 U~

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