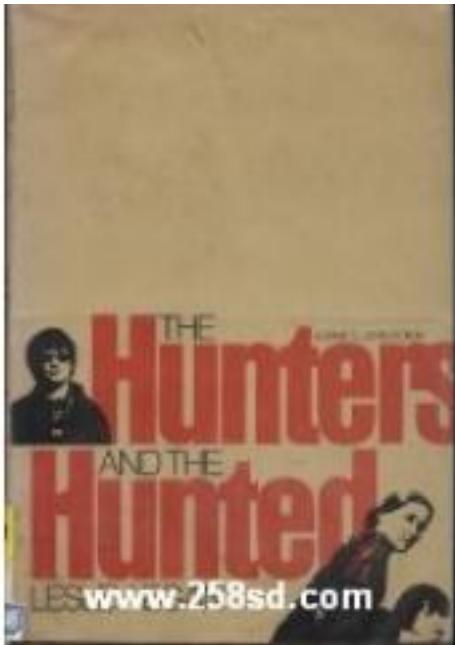


The Hunters and the Hunted



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780385152655

CHAPTER ONE
Meg left the office early that Tuesday. Dr. Burton's last appointment was at three o'clock; while he was giving that examination Mrs. Wrangell came in for her new glasses. Both patients had left by ten minutes to four and he came out to the waiting room looking tired and preoccupied and said, "May as well close up shop early." She drove up Pacific Avenue to pick up Tammy at the nursery school. Mrs. Dean's private nursery school wasn't cheap but it was a very good one. Clarissa Young pried Tammy away from a big picture book and said cheerfully, "Guess we're in for the usual heat wave this time in March. Why does anybody live in this climate?" Meg said she often wondered. She needed a few things at the market and stopped at the Lucky on Glenoaks on the way home. Tammy used to love riding in the

market cart^{1/4} but now she was four^{1/4} she was too grown-up for that^{1/4} and dawdled behind Meg along the^{1/4} aisles. Milki^{1/4} cereal^{1/4} frozen orange juice^{1/4} a loaf of bread^{1/4} ground^{1/4} round. There weren't many people at the market. When Meg pulled^{1/4} into the apartment driveway it was only a little after five^{1/4} the sun low^{1/4} in the west but dusk still an hour away.^{1/4} She shut the garage door^{1/4} snapped the padlock^{1/4} picked up the bag^{1/4} of groceries; they started around to the front door. On the sidewalk^{1/4} there Carol Sue Wiley was riding her tricycle. "Hi^{1/4} Carol Sue^{1/4}" said^{1/4} Meg. "How was kindergarten today?"^{1/4} Carol Sue scowled a little at her^{1/4} a freckled sandy-haired little girl^{1/4} and said definitely^{1/4} "Yeth. All right^{1/4} I guess."^{1/4} Meg and Tammy walked up to the front door of the apartment.^{1/4} Tammy said in her funny grown-up way^{1/4} "Carol Sue's a funny girl^{1/4}^{1/4} isn't she?"^{1/4} "Pretty funny^{1/4}" said Meg^{1/4} smiling. Just lately^{1/4} for reasons known^{1/4}

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