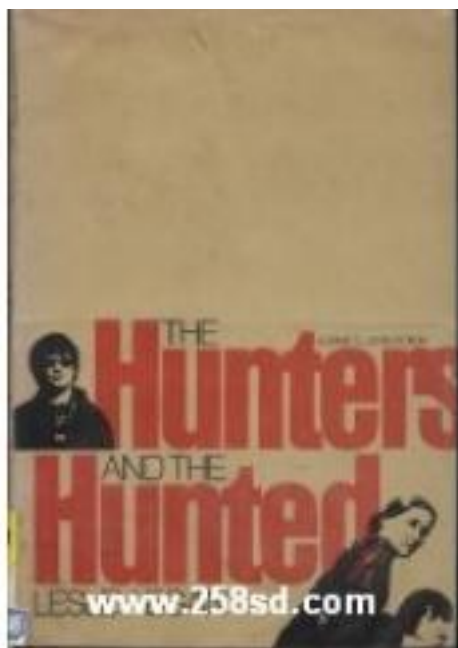


The Hunters and the Hunted



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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 carti¼ but now she was four
she was too grown-up for thati¼ and dawdled behind Meg along the
aisles. Milki¼ cereal¼ frozen orange juicei¼ a loaf of breadi¼ ground
round. There weren t many people at the market. When Meg pulled
into the apartment driveway it was only a little after fivei¼ the sun low
in the west but dusk still an hour away.
 She shut the garage doori¼ snapped the padlocki¼ picked up the bag
of groceries; they started around to the front door. On the sidewalk
there Carol Sue Wiley was riding her tricycle. \ "Hi¼ Carol Suei¼ \ " said
Meg. \ "How was kindergarten today? \ "
 Carol Sue scowled a little at heri¼ a freckled sandy-haired little girli¼
and said definitelyi¼ \ "Yeth. All righti¼ I guess. \ "
 Meg and Tammy walked up to the front door of the apartment.
Tammy said in her funny grown-up wayi¼ \ "Carol Sue s a funny girli¼
isn t she? \ "
 \ "Pretty funnyi¼ \ " said Megi¼ smiling. Just latelyi¼ for reasons known

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