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Inspired by the incredible life of the fascinating Russo-Irish Countess Maria Nikolaevna Tarnovska, Hans Habe has written his most brilliant novel to date — the story of a beautiful, driven, demonic woman, who used one of her lovers to help persuade another lover to murder a third lover. Born to luxury and power, her life ended in a bleak Venetian prison after a sensational trial that rocked Europe. Her violent and sadistic love affairs earned her the title of the “Marquise de Sade”, and she became one of the first guinea pigs for the new science of psychoanalysis.

HANS HABE has been called the “Balzac of our times.” In *The Countess* he has painted a brilliant portrait of corruption against the background of dying Czarist Russia, and he has discovered the beginnings of “la dolce vita” in modern society that led to the downfall of its best traditions. Acclaimed in Germany and scheduled for publication in fourteen other countries, *The Countess* is a masterly novel in the grand tradition of storytelling.
Translated by Catherine Hutter
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The Countess

a novel by
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