

HABE, Hans

Hollywood burning at the scathing attack on the film capital in Hans Habe's autobiography, "All My Sins," just published in England. Habe, ex-son-in-law of Ambassador Joseph E. Davies, worked as a movie writer in Hollywood.

*Fröhliche mich*

1957 Nov.

1963 Oct.

"THE COUNTESS' by Hans Habe (Harcourt, Brace & World). This novel is a fictionalization of the extraordinary life of a Russo-Irish beauty, the sadistic Countess Maria Nikolaevna Tarnovska, who inspired a mad murder plot. She persuaded one lover, a youth who liked to be whipped, to murder a second lover, and she got still another lover to help the scheme along. Before that, yet another lover was shot by the Countess's husband, and was rendered an invalid. The Countess nursed him devotedly until . . .

Mr. Habe wants to show us, among other things, that the times we like to call "ours" originated in the East, way 'way back: "What is happening now, symbolized by 'la dolce vita' on Rome's Via Vittorio Veneto, began half a century ago on the Tverskaya Boulevard in Moscow."

Too bad Mr. Habe didn't tell the story straight. The novelistic devices he employs add confusion and clutter to a tale that needs all the orderly documentation it can get.

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