

THE LADY MAGAZINE

Set in the divided Italy of 1943, a Wehrmacht Major, Martin Bora, investigates a the murder of a Fascist bigwig with local policeman Sandro Guidi. Their relationship reflects the ambivalence of Italy's place in the war. Although real friendship is impossible between the two men, shared, although not expressed, feelings create a bond against the relentless remnants of the Fascist regime. The descriptions of the weather, which features so large as to be a character in itself, create a disturbing, harsh landscape. A reflection on broken dreams and the struggle for individuality within a relentless machine—once read, not easily forgotten.