



The Wife of the First Consul (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Imbert de Saint-Amand

Forgotten Books, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from The Wife of the First Consul Hortense de Beauharnais, a bright and merry girl, running, swift as Atalanta, in the garden; or in the theatre at the end of the gallery, playing Rosina in the Barber of Seville like a consummate actress. I am back in the consular court, which is still republican, full of charm, of vivacity, rich in youth, glory, and hope, with but little dread of the catastrophes hid in the dark future. Nine years pass, and what a change! Poor Josephine, broken with grief, enters once more the house where not long before she had arrived in joy. Her dark presentiments have been realized. The woman to whom the conqueror of Italy used to write burning love-letters is now disgraced, disowned, and driven forever from the Tuileries. She has just drunk to the dregs the chalice of the bitterness of divorce which she had prayed to be spared. It is a cold, wet December night; the withered leaves lie about like dead illusions; the wind wails, and nature moans. The abode of happiness is...

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