

The Gift of Sleep: A Story of Love and Intrigue in Time of War

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A novel of romance and
intrigue during World War II

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THE NORTHERN BALKANS IN THE 1930s... In remote landlocked Dacia an express train makes an emergency stop and two powerful warlords, Count Anton Cozma and his rival General Serbanu meet trackside face to face.

They're competing for the lucrative and influential posting as Dacia's consul general at New York with its political connections in Washington and dominance over the beleaguered Dacian community in uptown Manhattan.

As Cozma and Serbanu intrigue against each other on both sides of the Atlantic, the Second World War engulfs Europe and Cozma must also deal with his rebellious eighteen-year-old daughter Marilena. Can her strange new boyfriend Andre, a Dacian-American from a hostile clan be trusted with the safety of his daughter, or by using her as bait, can Andre be manipulated into a weapon against Serbanu? As clan conflict overwhelms the homeland, the struggle spreads to America and guilty and innocent alike are caught up in a frightening shadow war that pits the Securata, Dacia's ruth secret service against an effete rogue prince with something to prove, and the sociopathic killer he's hired to help him. This engaging tale from the late Thirties

captures the texture, mentality and unforgiving nature of the lost world of seventy-five years ago. You'll be transported from the rustic valleys of Dacia where priests and witches collude to keep peasants alive, to the grimy streets of the Dacian ghetto in New York with its brutal enforcers, to the Depression-ravaged Pennsylvania hills where packs of outlaw kids jump off freights to rob homes, assault the gullible and disappear again. It was a time when jobs were as elusive as sex; when totalitarian ideologies offered easy solutions to be paid with someone else's blood; a time when young people like Marilena and Andre faced grim choices in an uncertain era not dissimilar to our own.