

On Hazardous Duty, by David St. John (E. Howard Hunt) copyright 1965,
Signet 451-Q5778, 95¢.

This book presents 95¢ worth of Hunt's knowledge of French winelists and menus, all festooning the adventures of the hero, Peter Ward (Hunt) as he muffs the pickup of a defecting Soviet scientist at Shannon Airport in Eir~~te~~ and then, after going to Paris to make his report via the CIA station there, swings into a campaign to thwart a Soviet plot to foment a revolt against the French government by Algerian immigres.

Ward zeros in on the Soviet plotmaster, a KGB operative in the Soviet embassy named Belkin. This is duck soup for a man of Ward's (Hunt's) talents. All he does is to get to know Belkin's French mistress, through the good offices of his own (Ward's) French mistress, both of which ladies happen to be fashion models working for the same coutourier in Gay Paree. Everything everyone eats and drinks is recorded meticulously as the plot moves in and out of famous restaurants, delightful bizstros and quaint country hostelries en route to a chateaux where everyone winds up for a weekend over the wine caves where the canny Russkies have stashed the arms for the hoped-for uprising by the Algerians. After Ward has done his duty to assorted ladies requiring his s~~er~~rvices, he makes a midnight raid on the caves, gets the information he's looking for, plants a time bomb to blow up the arms cache later, and forces Belkin to defect to the U.S. of A. Belkin's mistress also defects with the promise of being able to open a salon in New York, but Ward's own girl friend is left high and dry, presumably to be encountered on the next go-round. Tune in tomorrow.

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