

THE HEART OF THE BALKANS

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The Heart of the Balkans by Demetra Vaka

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DEMETRA VAKA

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THE BALKANS**

THE HEART OF THE
BALKANS

BY DEMETRA VAKA
(Mrs. Kenneth-Brown)

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TO
HONORÉ WILLSIE
THESE PAGES ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
BECAUSE SHE INSPIRED ME
TO WRITE THEM

incl. # 12-7-34

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The Heart of the Balkans

I

WILD ALBANIA

WE landed at Avlona, and from there were to proceed through the interior. It was immediately after one of the uprisings in Albania, in which villages had been burned, men had been killed, and women — well, women always pay the largest penalty in the fighting of men. Avlona, the morning we landed, was serene and enchanting. Framed by the blue Adriatic at her feet and by the distant mountains above her, she gave me the impression of a spoiled, handsome woman, who knew only the beautiful things in life, and refused to hear of distressing things that had taken place behind her back.

Our journey was to be made on mules, and the first thing, of course, was to engage them