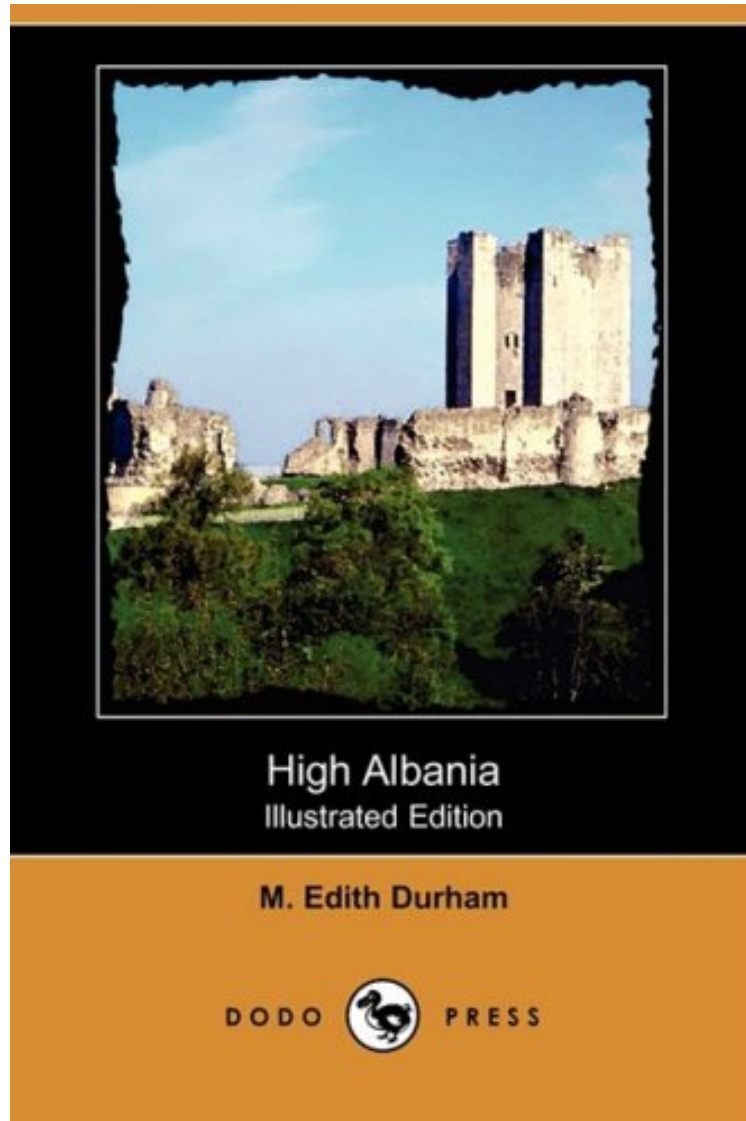


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Mary Edith Durham (1863-1944) was a British traveller, artist and writer who became famous for her anthropologist accounts of life in Albania in the early 20th century. Educated privately, she developed a talent for illustration and watercolouring and attended the Royal Academy of Arts and Bedford College in London. She exhibited widely and contributed a number of detailed drawings to the amphibia and reptiles volume of the Cambridge Natural History (1899). She worked in a variety of relief organisations, painted and wrote, and collected folklore and folk art. Her work was of genuine anthropological significance; she contributed frequently to the journal *Man* and became a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute. Her writings, however, were to earn her particular fame. She wrote seven books on Balkan affairs, of which *High Albania* (1909) is the best known. It is still regarded as the pre-eminent guide to the customs and society of the highlands of northern Albania. Amongst her other works are: *Through the Lands of the Serb* (1904), *The Burden of the Balkans* (1905), *The Struggle for Scutari* (1914) and *Twenty Years of Balkan Tangle* (1920).