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Autore	Lindemann Mary
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 323-342) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Prologue -- Events and entanglements -- "Voila--le spectacle!" -- A most difficult case -- A very diplomatic affair -- Dramatis personae -- Entr'acte -- A brave and upright cavalier? -- A woman of pleasure -- A real Polish prince, a fake Italian count, and an authentic Spanish hidalgo.
Sommario/riassunto	Liaisons dangereuses examines the local and international repercussions of a notorious episode in eighteenth-century Hamburg. Historian Mary Lindemann recounts the mysterious circumstances surrounding the violent death of a counterfeit Milanese count, Joseph Visconti, at the hands of an erstwhile Prussian lieutenant, the Baron von Kesslitz. Reconstructing the drama from the perspectives of four principal players - the count, the baron, an Italian/French courtesan, Anna Maria Romellini, and Antoine Ventura de Sanpelayo, the Spanish consul in Hamburg - Lindemann explores the historical currents that swept these individuals together and the effects of their encounter on Hamburg's public, its government, and its diplomatic and economic relationships with European courts and states. Lindemann profiles each person involved in the crime, exploring their lives as unique sets of circumstances while analyzing them as eighteenth-century types. What actually took place on that fateful night in October 1775? All Hamburg buzzed with rumors, but it is impossible to determine without doubt the motives of those involved, or even to know what really happened.

Nevertheless, the case that developed around the killing of Visconti provides fascinating insights into the diplomatic, cultural, legal, social, and political history of the last third of the eighteenth century.
