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Murder, Wrongful Conviction, Corrupt Justice: A Woman Seeks to Find the Truth in a Town Shrouded in Secrets

DARK HOLLOW by Anna Katharine Green

A woman who had a successful professional career, Anna Katharine Green not only was skilled at her craft, she also provided a voice for society's victims in her fiction — Mystery and Suspense Writers: The Literature of Crime, Detection, and Espionage.

Her powers of invention are so remarkable--she has so much imagination and so much belief (a most important qualification for our art) in what she says —Wilkie Collins

Anna Katherine Green is often referred to as “mother of the detective novel” — Contemporary Authors Online

Green's originality, the tightness of her plots, the attractiveness of her characters, and her astonishing consistency over a forty-five year span make her an author well worth a second look—Audrey Peterson

DARK HOLLOW (Hambledon Hill Press), the 33rd novel from brilliant author Anna Katharine Green, is truly a compelling tale of hidden guilt, honor, and remorse. The small town of Shelby is shaken by a brutal murder. In its remote outskirts, in a place called Dark Hollow, a man by the name of Etheridge was found beaten to death. John Scoville, a local inn-keeper, is convicted and executed for the crime. Many years later, “a woman in purple” shows up at the house of Ostrander, the respected judge who had sentenced Scoville to be executed. This mysterious woman turns out to be the wife of the convicted man, but she does not believe he was guilty. Deborah Scoville had to move away with her daughter and change her name to avoid the stigma of being the wife of a murderer. She visits the Judge, who is now a recluse, to challenge him on his verdict. He listens to her plea, but reaffirms his belief in Scoville’s guilt. Having nowhere to go, Deborah is given the position of maid, which she secretly will use to obtain proof of her husband’s innocence and the identity of the real killer.

However, the initial evidence that Deborah collects points in troubling new directions. It forces disclosures about the Judge’s errant and estranged son. More evidence emerges: peculiar marks on a walking stick, a knife, a tragic fire, mistaken identities, heated arguments between friends. All of this produces astonishing tension, culminating in bitter accusations and an exciting chase in upstate New York. Finally, all the circumstances of the crime are revealed. Judge Ostrander carries painful secrets from long ago, involving his son and his best friend, secrets that he hoped would never come to light.

When another of Green's novels, **A STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE**, was first published a reviewer remarked about Green: “We have a Gaboriau in our own tongue.” The Frenchman Gaboriau is considered by many to be the inventor of the detective/mystery genre, and such comments could only

have considered extremely flattering. Green does resemble Gaboriau to a certain extent in that she had a strong grasp of plot and characterizations. However, she has been less fairly compared to other contemporary authors, whose main goal was producing works for mass consumption, and whose books are distinctly inferior to Green's.

Anna Katharine Green (1846-1935), the brilliant author of **DARK HOLLOW**, was born in Brooklyn, NY. As a child, she used to overhear discussions her father, a prominent defence lawyer, had with colleagues about cases he was handling. This no doubt spurred an early interest in crime and intrigue. Green was also from an early age very much committed to literary pursuits, and produced over her lifetime some thirty detective novels that were widely read and appreciated. Despite her success, she avoided media scrutiny, and preferred a quiet home life. Nonetheless, at times she jumped into the center of controversy, such as when she voiced her conservative views on female suffrage. She married Charles Rohlf's (an actor and furniture designer), in 1884, and had three children. Although generally credited with excellent imagination and logical plots, Green's books had trouble receiving unqualified critical acceptance due to the general discrimination against mystery writing at the time. However, she had a wide-ranging influence on later writers of mystery, most notably Agatha Christie. Some of her other notable works were: *The Leavenworth Case* (1878); *A Strange Disappearance* (1880); *XYZ* (1883); *Hand and Ring* (1883); *The Mill Mystery* (1886); *Dr. Izard* (1895); *Agatha Webb* (1899); *The Circular Study* (1900); *The Filigree Ball* (1903); *The Millionaire Baby* (1905); *The Chief Legatee* (1906); *The Woman in the Alcove* (1906); *The Mayor's Wife* (1907); *The Millionaire Baby* (1905); *The Mayor's Wife* (1907).

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship*; *Liberating Love*; *The Concept of Family*; and *Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **DARK HOLLOW**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, please contact Cassandra Foxton, inform_at_anzapublishing.com. The publisher's website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

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DARK HOLLOW, by Anna Katharine Green, Paul Dennis Sporer (Editor)

Revised and enhanced new Edition

Pub. Date: 2006; Pages: 276; ISBN: 1-932490-20-5 (hc), Price: \$25.95