

# ANZA PUBLISHING

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**The Hopes and Plans of Ordinary People  
Brought to Life in a Positive Uplifting Story**

## **DREAMS OF EDEN** by Amanda Douglas

A friend of Louisa May Alcott, and author of numerous books, Amanda Douglas was a popular author, who always imbued her work with strength, courage, and propriety. In **DREAMS OF EDEN**, Douglas portrays something lost in today's fiction, that of domestic virtues, by giving us a very warm, good-natured success-story set in late 19th century America. The story is of a brother and sister — named Adam and Eve — who go to a country town “within an hour of New York,” where the brother has an appointment as station-master. There they set up housekeeping in two rooms over the station; with a small sum to start on and with the maximum industry and economy, in a few years they establish themselves as important people and bring a new vitality to the surroundings.

But this book is much more than the effect that two people can have on their community. Douglas strongly believed in the transcending value of family harmony, and her book portrays characters who find immense gratification and strength in the profoundly warm intimacy that they experience with their relatives. Undeniably, the relationship between brother and sister is at the center of the story. Yet, the deeply intimate nature of their relationship would not be considered “conventional” by modern standards; many might suspect something impure in the highly affectionate and spouse-like devotion that brother and sister have to each other. In fact, their relationship shows the blessings of true love and altruistic motivations, independent of blood relations. The main characters consideration for each other extends also to other people, who benefit from their kindness and wisdom. Douglas' book, even by the more restrictive moral codes of the time, was not judged to be abnormal in the slightest, and reviewers called it a “respectable, good, practical work” with “bright conversations” and “pretty domestic pictures”. Ideals concerning love, family, and culture are universally appreciated, and one aid in reaching these ideals is the study of the profoundly rich concepts of the traditional era. In the end, **DREAMS OF EDEN** is a very enjoyable and uplifting story, with the most positive traits of human nature brought to life, showing how a couple can manage to rejuvenate their community, and at the same time find fulfillment through hard work, imagination, and courage.

Amanda Douglas was born in New York City, in 1838, moving to Newark, New Jersey, in 1853, where she lived most of her life. Her education included studying English literature, history, and various other subjects with a private tutor, and also studying at the City institute in New York. In early childhood she amused the neighboring children with ongoing stories that would be continued for weeks. At eighteen years of age, she was about to begin the study of designing and engraving, when illness in the family

prevented her from continuing. For a number of years she was devoted to nursing the sick, and used her leisure moments to engage in writing. Of her early efforts in writing she says: "I had no thought of becoming a novelist, as I was so interested in other pursuits; but this path seemed to open, and others proved quite impossible, as I could not leave my home." Douglas was not only very imaginative but scientific as well, with several inventions to her credit, including at least one patent, that of a folding frame for a mosquito-net, that could be used by travelers or artists.

Amanda Douglas published numerous stories, including: "In Trust" (Boston, 1866); "Claudia" (1867); "Stephen Dane" (1867); "Sydney Adriance" (1868); "With Fate Against Him" (New York, 1870); "Kathie's Stories for Young People" (6 vols., Boston, 1870'1); "Lucia: Her Problem" (New York, 1871); "Santa Claus Land" (Boston, 1873); "Home Nook" (1873); "The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe" (1874); "Seven Daughters" (1874); "Nelly Kinnard's Kingdom" (1876); "From Hand to Mouth" (1877); "Hope Mills" (1879); "Lost in a Great City" (1880); "Whom Kathie Married" (1883); "Out of the Wreck" (1884); "A Woman's Inheritance" (1885); "Foes of Her Household" (1886).

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; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **DREAMS OF EDEN**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, please contact Cassandra Foxton, [inform\\_at\\_anzapublishing.com](mailto:inform_at_anzapublishing.com). The publisher's website address is [AnzaPublishing.com](http://AnzaPublishing.com).

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