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NATHAN

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Black Memorial Book Prize 1926

# THE UNLIT LAMP

a novel by

RADCLYFFE HALL

Author of

*The Well of Loneliness*



'And the sin I impute to each frustrate ghost  
Is—the unlit lamp and the ungirt loin.'

*'The Statue and the Bust  
(Browning).*

*Radclyffe Hall*

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And the sin I impute to each creature's ghost  
Is—the unit lamp and the night join.  
The Statue and the Past  
(Lionizing)

*Radcliffe Hall*

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To  
MABEL VERONICA BATTEN  
in deep affection, gratitude  
and respect

CHAPTER ONE

The first of the three great things that a man should know is that he is a man. The second is that he is a creature of the earth. The third is that he is a creature of the spirit. The fourth is that he is a creature of the flesh. The fifth is that he is a creature of the blood. The sixth is that he is a creature of the bone. The seventh is that he is a creature of the marrow. The eighth is that he is a creature of the sinew. The ninth is that he is a creature of the nerve. The tenth is that he is a creature of the brain. The eleventh is that he is a creature of the heart. The twelfth is that he is a creature of the lungs. The thirteenth is that he is a creature of the liver. The fourteenth is that he is a creature of the stomach. The fifteenth is that he is a creature of the intestines. The sixteenth is that he is a creature of the bladder. The seventeenth is that he is a creature of the kidneys. The eighteenth is that he is a creature of the spleen. The nineteenth is that he is a creature of the pancreas. The twentieth is that he is a creature of the gall bladder. The twenty-first is that he is a creature of the bile duct. The twenty-second is that he is a creature of the duodenum. The twenty-third is that he is a creature of the jejunum. The twenty-fourth is that he is a creature of the ileum. The twenty-fifth is that he is a creature of the caecum. The twenty-sixth is that he is a creature of the sigmoid colon. The twenty-seventh is that he is a creature of the rectum. The twenty-eighth is that he is a creature of the anus. The twenty-ninth is that he is a creature of the ureters. The thirtieth is that he is a creature of the bladder. The thirty-first is that he is a creature of the prostate. The thirty-second is that he is a creature of the vas deferens. The thirty-third is that he is a creature of the epididymis. The thirty-fourth is that he is a creature of the testis. The thirty-fifth is that he is a creature of the scrotum. The thirty-sixth is that he is a creature of the penis. The thirty-seventh is that he is a creature of the urethra. The thirty-eighth is that he is a creature of the meatus. The thirty-ninth is that he is a creature of the clitoris. The fortieth is that he is a creature of the labia. The forty-first is that he is a creature of the vagina. The forty-second is that he is a creature of the cervix. The forty-third is that he is a creature of the uterus. The forty-fourth is that he is a creature of the fallopian tube. The forty-fifth is that he is a creature of the ovary. The forty-sixth is that he is a creature of the oviduct. The forty-seventh is that he is a creature of the uterus. The forty-eighth is that he is a creature of the fallopian tube. The forty-ninth is that he is a creature of the ovary. The fiftieth is that he is a creature of the oviduct.



All the characters represented  
in this book are purely  
imaginary

## THE UNLIT LAMP

### BOOK I

#### CHAPTER ONE

##### I

THE dining-room at Leaside was also Colonel Ogden's study. It contained, in addition to the mahogany sideboard with ornamental brackets at the back, the three-tier dumb waiter and the dining-table with chairs *en suite*, a large roll-top desk much battered and ink-stained, and bleached by the suns of many Indian summers. There was also a leather arm-chair with a depression in the seat, a pipe-rack and some tins of tobacco. All of which gave one to understand that the presence of the master of the house brooded continually over the family meals and over the room itself in the intervals between. And lest this should be doubted, there was Colonel Ogden's photograph in uniform that hung over the fireplace; an enlargement showing the colonel seated in a tent at his writing-table, his native servant at his elbow. The colonel's face looked sternly into the camera, his pen was poised for the final word, authority personified. The smell of the colonel's pipes, past and present, hung in the air, and together with the general suggestion of food and newspapers, produced an odour that became the very spirit of the room. In after years the children had only to close their eyes and think of their father to recapture the smell of the dining-room at Leaside.



RADCLYFFE HALL