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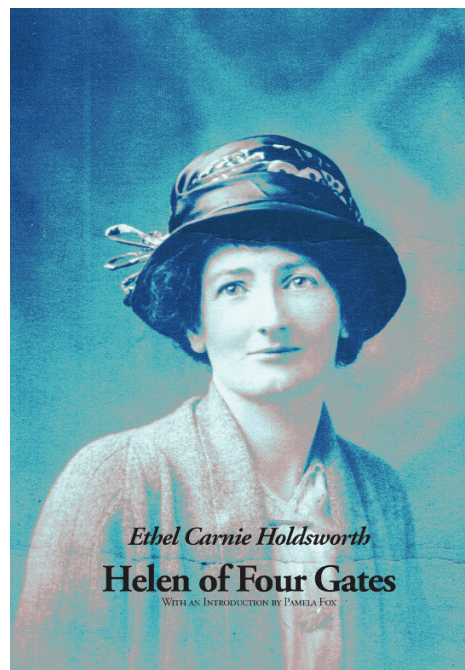
Helen of Four Gates Ethel Carnie Holdsworth

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY PAMELA FOX

In this, her bestselling second novel, Ethel Carnie Holdsworth adapts a formula popularised by the Brontë sisters to write a tale of dark and gothic romance set in the Lancashire hills. First published anonymously in 1917 amid the tumult of World War I, the novel quickly achieved strong sales in Britain and the US. By 1920 the author was working with Cecil Hepworth, a lauded pioneer of silent cinema, on the film version. In her fascinating introduction to the novel, Pamela Fox analyses Carnie Holdsworth's popular and political writings and discusses how in *Helen of Four Gates*, Carnie Holdsworth makes a powerful and important contribution both to early cinema and to working-class writing as a whole.

Ethel Carnie (1886-1962) was a working-class writer and socialist activist who campaigned for social and economic justice and the rights of working-class men and women. A poet, journalist, writer for children, and novelist, she worked in the Lancashire cotton mills from the age of eleven until her early twenties. She left the mills through the patronage of the popular socialist author and *Clarion* leader, Robert Blatchford (1851-1943), and worked as a journalist in London and as a teacher at Bebel House Women's College and Socialist Education Centre, before returning North to her roots. She had two daughters and in the 1920s edited the *Clear Light*, the organ of the National Union for Combating Fascism, with her husband from their home. Ethel wrote at least ten novels, making her a rare example of a female working-class novelist.

Pamela Fox is Professor of English at Georgetown University specialising in working-class literature and culture as well as feminist and cultural theory. She is the author of *Class Fictions: Shame and Resistance in the British Working-Class Novel, 1890-1945* (Duke U.P., 1994) and *Natural Acts: Gender, Race, And Rusticity in Country Music* (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2009). She is also co-editor of *Old Roots, New Routes: The Cultural Politics of Alt.Country Music*, with Barbara Ching (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2008).



The Ethel Carnie Holdsworth Series

Series Editor: Nicola Wilson,
University of Reading

Nicola Wilson is a lecturer in the English Literature department at the University of Reading. She is the author of *Home in British Working-Class Fiction* (Ashgate, 2015) and has published on working-class writing in *Key Words*; *The Oxford History of the Novel in English*, vol. 7 (Oxford U.P., 2015); and *A History of British Working-Class Literature* (Cambridge U.P., 2016). In 2011 she introduced and edited Ethel Carnie Holdsworth's 1925 novel, *This Slavery* (Trent).

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