



The Trials of Radclyffe Hall

By Souhami, Diana.

Quercus. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. Most famous for *The Well of Loneliness*, her landmark novel about lesbian love, Radclyffe Hall saw her books "burned in the King's furnace" and her publishers put on trial under the Obscene Publications Act. But Hall's trials were congenital, familial, and romantic as well as legal. Born in 1880 in the wildly misnamed Sunny Lawn house in Bournemouth, she endured a violent mother (who drank gin in an attempt to terminate the pregnancy) and an abusive stepfather, until at 18 she inherited her father's estate and was free to travel, employ servants, call herself John, write novels, and pursue women. In this brilliant, witty and satirical biography, Diana Souhami (author of *Murder at Wrotham Hall*) brings a fresh and irreverent eye to the life of this extraordinary woman. "This reviewer found herself engrossed from page one. Carried along at breakneck speed by the pace and wit of Souhami's style. Fascinating and frightening, a magnificent book." *Spectator* (London) 573.

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