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WORLD ENGLISH

## ADAM'S BREED

RADCLYFFE HALL

- From the acclaimed author of *The Well of Loneliness*, considered one of the most important novels of the twentieth century for its depiction of same-sex relationships.
- An acclaimed novel that won both the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction and the Prix Fémina for best English novel upon its publication.
- Follows a resurgence of interest in Lost Generation novels.
- Previously out of print – the only edition on the market.
- Contains extra material on the author's colourful life and notorious works.

Gian-Luca has a rocky start in life, his mother dying in childbirth, his father unknown, and he is sent to grow up with his grandparents amongst an Italian immigrant community on Old Compton Street. He becomes a waiter, where he learns the value of hard work, and soon lands a promotion to head waiter in a fine-dining restaurant. He excels in this position, and it is not long before he meets Maddelena, to whom he gets married. It seems he has found a happy ending.

However, despite his marriage to Maddelena and his achievements in his work, he finds he is not happy, after all. Life loses its joy, and he comes to despise those he serves in the restaurant, seeing in the diners the ugly side of society. Disconsolate, he sets out to seek a more fulfilling life, and becomes a hermit, trying to reconnect with nature, and hoping to find peace outside of society.

Despite winning awards upon its publication, *Adam's Breed* sank into obscurity following the censorship of Hall's later novel *The Well of Loneliness*. An early example of immigrant narratives, yet still relevant today, it is time Gian-Luca's stirring tale found its way back to the canon.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Radclyffe Hall (1880–1943) was an avante-garde English writer, best known for the novel *The Well of Loneliness*, an early portrayal of lesbianism in literature, which was banned upon publication, despite public outcry from well-known figures including Virginia Woolf. In later years, Hall spoke of feeling like a man trapped in a woman's body, and became privately known to friends as John; widely dismissed as writerly eccentricity until the late twentieth century, Hall's story now chimes with many modern transgender experiences.



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