

1985

Misdemeanor

Karen J. Hall
Denison University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hall, Karen J. (1985) "Misdemeanor," *Exile*: Vol. 32 : No. 1 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol32/iss1/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the English at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Exile by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.

Misdemeanor

for Radclyffe Hall (1886-1943)

Long after I have died
misunderstood and alone,
long after my work
has gone out of print,
long after my body
has fallen in on itself,
my writing will live
on a shelf, forgotten.
A young woman
hiding in study
will find a dust-covered
book with the last due date
thirty-eight years old.
Intrigued by the title,
by my picture on the frontispiece
and by the story I have left for her,
she will sign it out,
take it home to share
with her lover, her friends.
And though she may be
an honest young woman,
let this be the first book she steals.

Karen J. Hall

Radclyffe Hall, English novelist and author of *THE WELL OF LONELINESS*, wrote to give insight into the experiences of lesbian women and to justify the lives of "those pitiful thousands who must stand forever outside [God's] blessing." Her novel, however, was banned after an infamous obscenity trial.