

Through Black Spruce A Novel

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in king spruce a novel holman day crafts a vivid tapestry of human ambition and environmental exploitation set against the rugged backdrop of the lumber industry the book delves into the life and challenges faced by dwight wade as he interacts with the laborers and executives in the timber trade through a rich narrative day creates an authentic representation of early 20th century logging life employing a realist literary style that resonates with the works of his naturalist contemporaries within this historical and industrial milieu the story unfolds exploring themes of nature versus industry and the plight of the individual amidst overarching corporate power day s nuanced character development invites the reader into a narrative that is as much an expose of the era s societal structuring as it is a personal journey of enlightenment and resistance holman day s personal background and experiences punctuate his writing with verisimilitude as a writer familiar with the maine woods and local journalism his perspectives are deeply ingrained in the characters and settings of king spruce it is likely that day s own observations of the dynamism between the timber barons and the working class men informed the authenticity with which he narrates the novel this story is not merely a fictional account but a reflection of the labor struggles economic forces and the transformation of natural landscapes that the author witnessed firsthand king spruce a novel comes highly recommended for readers who appreciate american naturalist literature with a focus on historical context academics and enthusiasts of environmental history as well as those interested in the intricacies of early industrial life will find day s work both enlightening and engaging the novel provokes thoughtful consideration of the consequences of human industry on both society and nature delivering a deeply human story that reverberates with the echoes of chainsaws and board feet tallied in a ledger holman day s narrative power offers a window into a bygone era that still has much to teach the contemporary reader

□this was the first time wade had been inside the doors of □castle cut □em □ the name the humorists of stillwater had given the dominating block on the main street of the little city the up country men with the bitterness of experience and moved by somewhat fantastic imaginings said it was □king spruce□s castle □ in the north woods one heard men talk of king spruce as though this potentate were a real and vital personality to be sure his power was real and power is the principal manifestation of the tyrant who is incarnate invisibility usually makes the tyranny more potent king spruce vast association of timber interests was visible only through the affairs of his court administered by his officers to whom power had been delegated and viewed by what he exacted and performed king spruce lived and reigned□still lives and reigns wade not wholly at ease in the presence for he had come with a petition like the others gazed about the reception room of the umcolcus lumbering and log driving association the incorporators□ more decorous title for king spruce it occurred to him that

the wall adornments were not reassuring a brightly polished circular saw hung between two windows it was crossed by two axes and a double handled saw was the base for this suggestive coat of arms the framed photographs displayed loaded log sleds and piles of logs heaped at landings and similar portraiture of destruction in the woods everything seemed to accentuate the dominion of the edge of steel the other wall decorations were the heads of moose and deer further suggestion of slaughter in the forest a stuffed porcupine on the mantel above the great fireplace mutely suggested that the timber owners would brook no rivalry in their campaign against the forest they had asked the state to offer a bounty for the slaughter of this tree girdler and a card propped against the □quill pig□ instructed the reader that the state had already spent more than fifty thousand dollars in bounties

he young man on his way to castle cut em was a clean cut picture of self reliant youth but he was not walking as one who goes to a welcome task he saw two men ahead of him who walked with as little display of eagerness men whose shoulders were stooped and whose hands swung listlessly as do hands that are astonished at finding themselves idle a row of mills that squatted along the bank of the canal sent after them a medley of howls from band saws and circulars the young man with the memory of his college classics sufficiently fresh to make him fanciful found suggestion of chained monsters in the aspect of those shrieking mills with slip openings like huge mouths

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king spruce by holman day offers a compelling glimpse into the historical lumber trade and small town life in maine this meticulously prepared reprint allows readers to immerse themselves in a bygone era exploring the challenges and triumphs of those involved in the logging industry day s novel categorized as historical fiction paints a vivid picture of a community shaped by the demands of the timber trade experience the rough and tumble world of logging where fortunes were made and lost amidst the towering pines more than just a story of business and economics king spruce is a testament to the enduring spirit of

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reproduction of the original in queer street by fergus hume

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