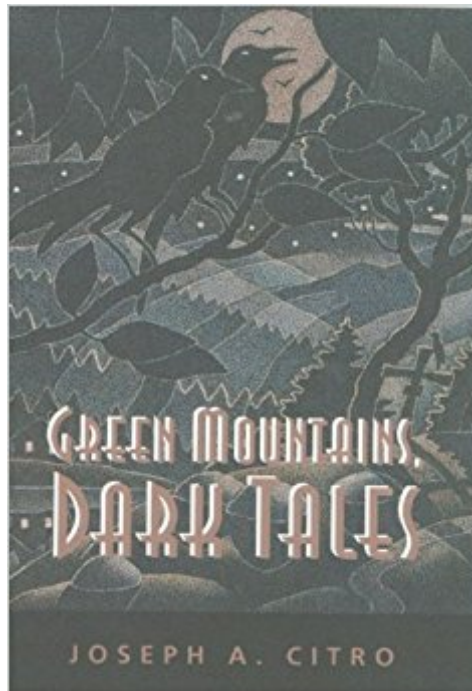




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# Green Mountains, Dark Tales (Hardscrabble Books)



## Synopsis

Vermonters Freeze The Elderly For The Winter Months. That's what the

## Book Information

Series: Hardscrabble Books

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: UPNE (March 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0874518636

ISBN-13: 978-0874518634

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 6.3 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,190,931 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Travel > United States > Vermont](#) #1258 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Folklore](#) #1277 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Fairy Tales](#)

## Customer Reviews

A hybrid of journalism and legend, this wide-ranging, well-researched collection of Vermont folklore consists of 31 tall tales, peculiarities, stories of the supernatural and modern mysteries. Spanning from the early 1700s to contemporary times, the book is divided into three categories: "People," "Places" and "Things." All of which Citro, author of five suspense novels (*The Unseen*, etc.), classifies as Vermont's "dark tales." Straightforward, brief sketches feature such unique Vermont residents as James Johns, a newspaper publisher of the 19th century who put out his own hand-lettered, one-copy-only newspaper five days a week for over 40 years, or the "Queen of Cupidity," mean, niggardly Hetty Green, who "railroaded" her husband into a poorhouse yet died at age 81 worth over \$100 million. Among the haunted places Citro covers are the University of Vermont, where ghosts have allegedly been sighted in 11 of the buildings; the Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford, once a tuberculosis sanatorium that is now said to be haunted by one of its former nurses; and the Inn at Long Last in Chester and Manchester's grand Equinox Hotel, both hosts to ghosts, including one suspected of being Mary Todd Lincoln. Accounts of witches, mirages, eccentrics, monsters and mysterious creatures, such as Northfield's Pigman (a being with a man's body and a pig's face) are, like all the tales in this book, carefully detailed short pieces told in the same accessible, if at times bland, style. Some of the segments are engrossing, others patchy and

incomplete; overall, Citro's rugged morsels make for quirky amusement. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Vermont is a region of enchantment for these several dark tales collected by Citro (Shadow Child, 1998, not reviewed) from every county in the state. The author declares his stories to be strange but mainly true, though they're taken from older Vermont collections, archives, libraries, journals, periodicals, and newspapers and thus are recycled, or even paranormally refurbished, yet Citro tells us that many are seeing print for the first time. His first alone is enough to make you a doubter of the rest: in 1887, five elderly Vermonters, crippled and past the age of usefulness, were drugged, stripped naked, frozen for the winter in a big wooden box, then revived the following May and fed a hearty meal. Implied is the idea that their infirmities were somehow overcome. Retold also is the story of Hetty Green, wicked witch of Wall Street, who enjoyed destroying people and who, as a result of her obsession with money, became the richest woman in the world. Too tight to rent an office, Hetty worked out of a pile of crates and boxes on the floor of New York's Chemical and National Bank. Vermont also produced a great mental oddity in Truman H. Safford, who once correctly computed in his head a 15-digit number multiplied by itself. Citro narrates his own overnight stay in "The Dickens Room" of the Inn of Long Last in his hometown; he was kept awake, he says, by what may have been the scraping of Marley's chains. Other tales concern digging for Captain Kidd's long-lost silver, and the Green Mountain States cryptozoological jungle provides for other curious encounters. Deserves an ad in National Enquirer, where there must be an audience waiting for it. -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

I first discovered this book on a friend's shelf in Florida. I am from VT so I had to look. It was incredible to read these tales which take place all over my home state, even down the road from where I grew up! The writing is well done and easy to read. If you enjoy haunted history, Vermont lore, or just ghost stories in general I would recommend!

I own a B&B here in Vermont and love to display books written about Vermont. My guests love to read them

Great book. fast shipping.

very good

Joseph Citro's collections of Vermont folklore have become as much a part of the Green Mountain State as sugaring and the Lake Champlain Monster. GREEN MOUNTAINS, DARK TALES continues this series of terrifically readable and enjoyable stories based on Vermont folklore and legend. Anyone who likes the state or just likes a good story would do well to pick up this book. It makes for addictive reading.

I loved this book! I live on the NY/VT border, so I spend a lot of time in southern Vermont, and it was so great to be reading about places that I have been to. It's really interesting to have a mental image of a place because you've been there, and then you learn that this place has a much darker past than you ever could have imagined, and the picture changes, but your interest increases. It's really cool. Citro's books are some of my favorites. He's a great author - I love his writing style.

In the tradition of old-time Yankee yarn-spinners, Citro delivers something that's all too rare nowadays--a darn good story. Dozens of them, in fact. I got so wrapped up in the tale called "The House of the Feasting Dead" that I nearly went past my subway stop. This is a hair-raising tour "dark" side of Vermont, a place populated by ghosts, mystics, spiritualists and even a "stone-throwing devil."

While not as full or well-founded as his earlier books (more a collection of snippets), this book is another excellent collection, rewritten with incredible prose, of bizarre tales (some bordering on folklore) from Vermont's green hills. He paints a fascinating portrait of our magical land, as well as our people. Grade: A-

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