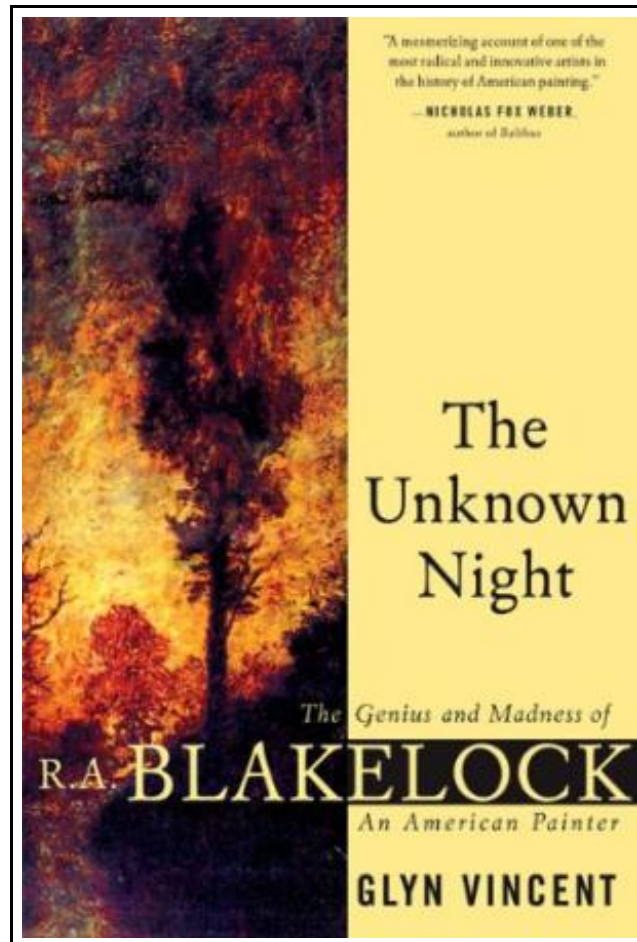


The Unknown Night: The Genius and Madness of R.A. Blakelock, an American Painter



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Reviews

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(Janie Wilkinson)

THE UNKNOWN NIGHT: THE GENIUS AND MADNESS OF R.A. BLAKELOCK, AN AMERICAN PAINTER



Grove Press / Atlantic Monthly Press. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Unknown Night: The Genius and Madness of R.A. Blakelock, an American Painter, Glyn Vincent, On February 22, 1916, Ralph Albert Blakelock's haunting landscape, Brook by Moonlight, was sold at auction for \$20,000, a record price for a painting by a living American artist. The sale made him famous, newspapers called him America's greatest artist, and thousands flocked to exhibits of his work. Yet at the time of his triumph Blakelock had spent 15 years confined in a psychiatric hospital in upstate New York and his wife and children were living in poverty. Released from the asylum by a young philanthropist, Blakelock was about to become the victim of one of the most heartless con games of the century. This remarkable biography chronicles the life, times and madness of one of America's most celebrated and exploited painters whose brooding, hallucinogenic landscapes anticipated Abstract Expressionism by more than half a century. Like the best biographies, The Unknown Night brings to life a vanished world, as well. In this case, it's late 19th and early 20th century New York—a city of artists' studios and spiritualists' salons, shantytowns and millionaires' mansions. Blakelock was a mystic who as a young man wandered among the Indians out West, and on his return frequented the spiritualist circles in New York City. Though he was regarded as a loner, he worked among the great painters of his time, artists like William Merritt Chase and George Inness. Blakelock initially painted in the Romantic style of the Hudson River School, but by the 1880s, his brooding, hallucinogenic landscapes were considered among the most controversial, radical paintings of the era. In the 1890s he fell on hard times and sometimes played the piano on the vaudeville...



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