

**HITTING THE DARK TRAIL;
STARSHINE THROUGH
THIRTY YEARS OF NIGHT**

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Hitting the dark trail; starshine through thirty years of night by Clarence Hawkes

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CLARENCE HAWKES

**HITTING THE DARK TRAIL;
STARSHINE THROUGH
THIRTY YEARS OF NIGHT**



The naturalist and his friends

HITTING THE DARK TRAIL

*STARSHINE THROUGH THIRTY
YEARS OF NIGHT*

BY

CLARENCE HAWKES

*Author of Shaggycoat, Black Bruin, The Wilderness Dog,
The Trail to the Woods, The Little Foresters, etc.*

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DEDICATED
TO MY FRIEND
HELEN KELLER

WITH SINCERE REGARD AND KEEN AP-
PRECIATION OF HER BRAVE STRUGGLE
AND WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENTS UPON
THE TRAIL OF DARKNESS AND SILENCE.

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A WORD TO THE READER

THIS little volume is preëminently a book of hope, courage, and achievement, although these essentials to happiness were only attained by the author after many discouragements, struggles, and heartaches.

It is the earnest hope of the writer that the reader may not be discouraged by the strenuous character of the first few chapters, but will adopt the author's three P's, Patience, Perseverance and Pluck, and read on to the happy ending.

The courageous man, with a true standard of life's values, is not impoverished by poverty, or greatly enriched by riches, for he recognizes the fact that the only value of circumstances to him, be they good or ill, is their effect upon his own life and character.

To fight on when the battle seems lost, and to finally snatch victory from defeat, is the most sublime thing in human life.

vi A WORD TO THE READER

So it is to make a better optimist and a better fighter of the reader that this book is written. If I can help you to hear songs in the silences, see sunshine in the clouds, turn seeming failure to success, and find good in all things, this book will not have been written in vain.

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