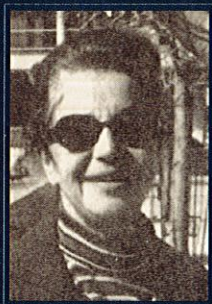


# THE AMERICAN COLONY

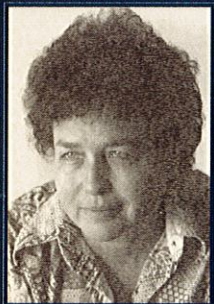
Scenes from a Jerusalem Saga

Helga Dudman & Ruth Kark





Helga Dudman was born and educated in America. She worked in Europe and England, and in Israel wrote for *The Jerusalem Post* for 35 years. She is the author of *Or Was It All a Dream?* with Ruth Dayan; *Open the Gates* with Ehud Avriel; *Street People*, the biographies behind the names of Israeli streets; *Tiberias*, the history of Galilee's main city; *A Personal Encyclopedia*; and in a very different vein, *The Dog's Guide to Famous Owners*.



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*The romantic courtyard of the American Colony has for decades been the "In" meeting place for sophisticated travelers — and for journalists, spies, royalty, world leaders, and lovers. And only in Jerusalem could a benevolent commune evolve into a luxury hotel.*

*But few visitors know the real history of this place, whose walls have witnessed all of life's eternal themes: brotherhood and strife, tragedy and survival, sin and success, and the quest for personal salvation. And of course, poverty and wealth: the rich represented by professionals from Chicago more than a century ago and by prosperous Swedish villagers; the poor by Swedish immigrants to America.*

*The many sources of this dramatic saga include three conflicting accounts written by charismatic women — two of them Swedish, one of them a Nobel Prize winner. The complete story has been brought together here for the first time.*



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THE  
AMERICAN  
COLONY



No two people ever see the same thing in quite the same way, and when they tell it the way they saw it, they aren't necessarily lying if it's different. . . .

No two historians ever agree on what happened, and the damn thing is they both think they're telling the truth.

— Harry Truman  
*Plain Speaking*

\* \* \*

All these things—memory, property, dynasty—are braided throughout the stories . . . caught . . . between smoothly related consolatory pasts and chaotic, sometimes brutal disturbances of the present.

— Simon Schama  
*Dead Certainties*

\* \* \*

Sometimes I'm not at all sure whether I am remembering something, or whether somebody has told me about it.

— Horatio Vester, in conversation

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CARTA JERUSALEM

Special thanks are due to Mrs. Valentine Vester for her unfailing kindness and far-ranging cooperation.

Editor: Barbara Ball

Photographs from the archives of the American Colony Hotel, Valentine Vester's family albums, and the authors'. Also from the Istanbul University Library; Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem; Israel Government Press Office; Dalarnas Museum, Sweden; Mike Horton; and from The Christian Herald's *The Cruise of the Eight Hundred to and through Palestine*, Olof Fahlén's *Nåsbönderna i Jerusalem*, and Edith Larsson's *Dalafolk i heligt land*.

Great care has been taken to establish sources of illustrations. If inadvertently we have failed to do so, due credit will be given in the next edition.

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ISBN 965 220 399 8

Printed in Israel

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