

NOTE TO READERS

by

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OUTWITTING THE DEVIL is the most profound book I have ever read.

First, I was incredibly honored when Don Green, CEO of the Napoleon Hill Foundation, trusted me enough to ask me to become involved in this project. And then I read the manuscript! I couldn't sleep for a week.

Written on a manual typewriter in 1938 by the Master himself, Napoleon Hill, this manuscript had been locked away and hidden by Hill's family for seventy-two years. Why? Because they were frightened by the response it would invoke. Hill's courage in revealing the Devil's work around each of us every day, in our churches, our schools, and our politics, threatened the very core of society as it was known at the time.

When asked why the family had hidden the manuscript, Don Green recites the following inside story:

It was the objections of Hill's wife, Annie Lou. She was secretary to Dr. William Plumer Jacobs, president of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. Jacobs was also owner of Jacobs Press and a public counselor to a group of South Carolina textile firms. Jacobs hired Hill to come to Clinton to work for him, and Annie Lou did not want the book published because of the role of the Devil. She feared the response from organized religion (and maybe for Hill's job). Even though Hill died in 1970, Annie Lou did not die until 1984. Upon Annie Lou's death, the manuscript