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**Winner of the 2010 L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award for Nonfiction  
& Named a “Must Read Book” by the Massachusetts Book Awards**

**\*\*Available in Paperback October 12, 2010\*\***

# **DOGTOWN**

**Death and Enchantment in a New England Ghost Town**

**By Elyssa East**

“A true-crime story, an art appreciation course and an American history lesson stitched together, and it succeeds at all three... East deserves credit for bringing the [murder] case to light and for reporting it with deft, moving details... **An ambitious and worthy book.**” —*New York Times Book Review*, Editor’s Choice

“East plunged into Dogtown convinced that it contained ‘part of the hidden America I had wondered about since childhood’—that old, weird America of un-hinged witches and unhinged seers... She makes a strong case that ‘place shapes consciousness’... **East is a fine stylist whose sympathetically imaginative conception of the past endows Dogtown with an eerie evocativeness.**” —*Wall Street Journal*

“[A] detailed and involving narrative history... The historical chapters are extremely appealing to lovers of little-known Americana, and East brings a thoroughness and compassion to her recounting of Natti’s murder and the subsequent trial that make those chapters of interest even to those who don’t typically read true crime... **[East] gives a reader a novel’s worth of colorful characters.**” —*Christian Science Monitor*

“‘This is a work of narrative nonfiction in which I attempt to tell the story of a landscape—Gloucester, Massachusetts’s Dogtown.’ The author’s succinct description of her fascinating, richly detailed and remarkably evocative exploration of a long-deserted colonial village amid a 3,600-acre woodland doesn’t do justice to the quirky originality of *Dogtown*... **East gracefully integrates her various themes into a coherent and mesmerizing whole.**” —Joyce Carol Oates, *Publishers Weekly* signature review

“**An engrossing hybrid** of equal parts true crime tale, local history lesson, and personal inquiry into fear, solitude, and our relationships with our surroundings.” —*Boston Globe*

“[A] **fascinating foray into a storied corner of New England** and two occult worlds—contemporary and colonial—with special reference to ancient witchcraft, modern sociopathology and that timeless element of the human condition, evil... A fabric of many strands: the murder; the trial and conviction of... the failure of our institutions to cope with his madness; the human history of the place.” —*Washington Times*

“These rich, lyrically told stories, which span 400 years of local history, paint a portrait of Dogtown as an enigmatic, mysterious town. **East is a skilled writer, adept at setting a mood, and her research about Dogtown and its environs is thorough.**” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“In lissome prose, East creates a remarkable depiction of the town that flexibly mixes history, character sketches, and personal observations... **An artfully wrought, absorbing debut.**” —*Booklist*

“*Dogtown* is a **haunting and powerful and hypnotic book, a tour-de-force of history.** Part novelist, part 1940’s gumshoe working the streets, Elyssa East is a writer whose wonderful attention to detail and unflinching gaze at human behavior is the rarest of gifts.” —Howard Norman, author of *What Is Left the Daughter*

“**A mesmerizing fugue of knife-edge true crime, deviant Yankee Americana, and historical evil-doings.** With an insider’s authenticity, East commands a haunted haven where renowned American thinkers and artists seek hideout, and finds the brilliant pin dot on a mysterious American murder map, charting a community’s bouts of wickedness for generations toward a spellbinding modern homicide. No other book captures our colonial ghost history with such chilly quirks, intimate lore, and fireworks. A pure original, East guides us through stunning supernatural gates into a bountiful wilderness.” —Maria Flook, author of *Invisible Eden*

“**This book is a wonder. I fell completely under its spell**—Elyssa East does not merely reupholster the old bones of *Dogtown*, she plunges you headlong into the green mystery of this place; I loved the looking-glass chill of opening her book and finding myself in another world entirely. *Dogtown* is true literary sorcery, a portal to one of the strangest places in America.” —Karen Russell, author of *St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*

“**Beautifully written, deftly told, and suspenseful to the very end—a stunning work of reportage.** A keenly observant writer with a painter’s eye for detail, East explores the strange, hypnotic spell that *Dogtown* seems to cast upon all—including herself—who enter its woods. The result is a riveting and very personal book that both dazzles and unnerves.” —Julie Otsuka, author of *When the Emperor Was Divine*

“**An extraordinary book** about a brutal murder in a setting of haunting beauty... **a real page-turner.**”  
—Elizabeth Strout, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Olive Kitteridge*

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Elyssa East received her BA in art history from Reed College, and her MFA in creative writing from Columbia University’s School of the Arts where she was the recipient of three prestigious fellowships. Her writing has been published in New England regional magazines, and she was a nonfiction reviews editor at *Publishers Weekly*. From 2006 to 2009, she coordinated KGB’s Faculty Selects reading series in conjunction with Columbia’s MFA program. East lives in New York City.

## **ABOUT THE BOOK**

### **DOGTOWN: Death and Enchantment in a New England Ghost Town**

By Elyssa East

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Please visit [www.ElyssaEast.com](http://www.ElyssaEast.com) for more information on Elyssa’s events and the book.

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