

- Rebecca Rego Barry. *The Vanishing of Carolyn Wells: Investigations into a Forgotten Mystery Author*. Nashville: Post Hill P, 2024. \$30 hardback. 332 pp.

Rebecca Rego Barry takes a less formal approach in her examination of the life and writing of Carolyn Wells than a traditional scholar might. In many ways, the presentation of her research as a kind of literary travelogue follows the pattern a reader might expect from an ivory tower writer, but Barry deviates from the formula with copious footnotes that offer sly asides and comments on Wells, her contemporaries, and the modern era. While these asides are amusing and at times distracting, they do not diminish the rigor of the examination of an author who, according to the author, should be regarded as influential. The portrait of Wells that Barry constructs is of a witty, tenacious woman who refused to be limited.