

## WILLA CATHER

*The Song of the Lark.* 1915. HOUGHTON  
MIFFLIN.

*My Antonia.* 1918. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.

*One of Ours.* 1922. KNOPF.

Clear visioned and with a sparse clean style, she develops her pioneer types with skill and her plots with unusual emotional and technical balance.

Willa Sibert Cather was born in Virginia but when she was nine years old moved with her family to a ranch in Nebraska, where, riding about on her pony, she collected the material that has made her novels possible. At nineteen, she was graduated from the State University of Nebraska. For a time she was a journalist, then a teacher, then, after the publication of her first books (one of poems and one of short stories), managing editor of "McClure's Magazine". Now

she gives her entire time to the writing of novels and short stories. Her friendship with Sarah Orne Jewett, to whom "O Pioneers!" (Houghton Mifflin, 1913) was dedicated, was a strong factor in her life, and a strong influence in her writing. She lives for most of the year in an apartment in Greenwich Village, where her Friday afternoon teas are both famous and entertaining.

M. F. E. calls "The Song of the Lark" "a work of genius".

"My Antonia", following 'O Pioneers!' and 'The Song of the Lark', holds out a promise for future development that the work of but two or three other established American novelists holds out. Miss Cather's recent volume of short stories 'Youth and the Bright Medusa' [Knopf, 1920], striking though it is, represents, it may be hoped, but an interlude in her brilliant progress. Such passion as hers only rests itself in brief tales and satire; then it properly takes wing again to larger regions of the imagination. Vigorous as it is, its further course cannot easily be foreseen; it has not the kind of promise that can be discounted by confident expectations. Her art, however, to judge it by its past career, can be expected to move in the direction of firmer structure and clearer outline. After all she has written but three novels and it is not to be wondered at that they all have about them certain of the graceful angularities of an art not yet complete." — C. F. D.

#### REFERENCES:

*Contemporary American Novelists*, p. 113.  
*The Women Who Make Our Novels*, p. 254.  
*Willa Sibert Cather*. Latrobe Carroll. THE BOOKMAN, vol. LIII, p. 212.