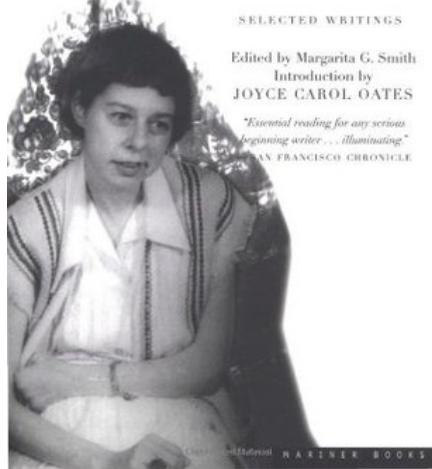


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By the author of THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER

CARSON McCULLERS

THE MORTGAGED HEART

SELECTED WRITINGS



Edited by Margarita G. Smith
Introduction by
JOYCE CAROL OATES

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beginning writer . . . illuminating."
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The Mortgaged Heart: Selected Writings

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An absorbing look at the early beginnings of one of America's finest writers, *The Mortgaged Heart* is an important collection of Carson McCullers's work, including stories, essays, articles, poems, and her writing on writing. These pieces, written mostly before McCullers was nineteen, provide invaluable insight into her life and her gifts and growth as a writer. The collection also contains the working outline of "The Mute," which became her best-selling novel *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*. As new generations of readers continue to discover her work, Carson McCullers's celebrated place in American letters survives more surely than ever. Edited by McCullers's sister and with a new introduction by Joyce Carol Oates, *The Mortgaged Heart* will be an inspiration to writers young and old.

The Mortgaged Heart: Selected Writings Details

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From Reader Review The Mortgaged Heart: Selected Writings for online ebook

Yan says

didn't like some of the essays but who cares.

Fionnuala says

The Mortgaged Heart

*The dead demand a double vision. A furthered zone,
Ghostly decision of appointment. For the dead can claim
The lover's senses, the mortgaged heart.*

*Watch twice the orchard blossoms in grey rain
And to the cold rose skies bring twin surprise.
Endure each summons once, and once again;
Experience multiplied by two - the duty recognized.
Instruct the quivering spirit, instant nerve
To schizophrenic master serve,
Or like a homeless Doppelgänger
Blind love might wander.*

*The mortgage of the dead is known.
Prepare the cherished wreath, the garland door.
But the secluded ash, the humble bone -
Do the dead know?*

1952

Mandy Johnson says

I really love McCullers. Hell, I wrote my thesis on her and Faulkner, but getting through the last bit of this book was a struggle. I just love her fiction more than her nonfiction.

patty says

Four and one half stars ... this book is a rare collection of McCullers writings beginning with short stories written as a teenager. What insight she possessed at such a young age of the human condition! It's rather startling given the set and setting. The book also contains essays (I wish to read more) and poetry. What

talent!

Brian says

One of America's finest writers

Cecily says

This collection is collated and introduced by Carson's sister and is mostly short stories. However, it also includes articles, poems, brief notes about writing and a detailed outline of her most famous novel, "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" (<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>).

A few pieces are more relevant if you are familiar with her subject (THiaLH, Dostoyevsky, Isak Dinesen), but most are accessible to all and the short stories are a good introduction to her distinctive, lyrical style. I also learned that Anne Frank's father asked Carson to write a play of Anne's diary, but Carson found the book too upsetting to do so.

She very quickly captures the mood and essence of characters and their situation and her musical training and her empathy with people isolated by difference and at turning points in their lives shine through. (She won a place at the Juilliard, to study piano, but lost her fees on the subway, so enrolled on a creative writing course instead!)

The topics include people struggling with drink, failure, loss, poor health, changing relationships, uncertainty etc.

* In Wunderkind (also included in Ballad of the Sad Café), the trials of adolescence seem to ruin musicality
* In Like That, a tomboy resists growing up and becoming more feminine
* Court in the West Eighties is surely an inspiration for Rear Window.
* The stand out story for me is The Haunted Boy, which is about a boy's overwhelming fear that something bad has happened to his mother. It takes a lot to make me cry, but it was so believable and the unspoken (and eventually, spoken) fear so awful, that this story did.

Angela Wade says

While it is obvious Ms. McCullers was unbelievably talented, the fifties-style dialogue in the short stories tripped me up. I have the same problem when reading Stephen King - I know that was the way people spoke back then, but it sounds so unnatural to me as to be grating, and I can't seem to get past it.

The essays were a bit heavy-handed and over the top, but I fully understand this woman's importance to the literary world now.

Eryn says

I am a big fan McCullers' writing so I looked forward to finishing this text to have better picture of her development as a writer. Each story is accompanied with a letter from the publisher giving some insight in the editorial comments McCullers' received.

Of her early stories I the following list stuck with me: "Court in the West Eighties," "Poldi" and "Instant of the Hour After."

I liked all the stories. "Art and Mr. Mahoney," is lightweight, and not to criticize, it also trivial. "Who Has Seen the Wind" is very developed but the characters are less mythical than those in *A Heart is a Lonely Hunter*.

Bee says

A good insight into some of McCullers' early work and also lesser known, her poetry. I love her poem, 'stone is not stone.'

Tanya says

3.5 stars. Interesting to see the development of a writer from her early works as well as to read her essays on the writing process.

Jo says

Carson McCullers would have turned 100 a week ago, and the 50th anniversary of her death is coming up in September.

Which means that I'll never get the chance to send her a letter to thank her for all these wonderfully poignant and smart things she wrote. *Sigh.*

Ginger says

I enjoyed the short stories, but found the essays and poetry a bit heavy handed and difficult to read. For those who enjoyed *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* and *Member of the Wedding*, I'd recommend the fiction portion of this collection.

Melody says

Two thumbs up for Carson. This book includes an outline of *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. Love reading the process behind her writings.

Lynda Spadaccini says

ahhh ms mccullers, one of the best writers I have ever read, just when think i am tired and can't read anymore, carson keeps me turning the page. The Mortgaged Heart is a collection of short stories essays and a few poems. the language is so simple, yet so effective, her essays on New York are amazing, not only do you feel like you are there, it makes you want to go there and see it for yourself.

Jemma says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/10404914>
