

NOVEL BY CATSON CAISON MANUAL MANUAL

Clock WITHOUT Hands that productive mul

by Carson McCullers

THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER

REFLECTIONS IN A GOLDEN EYE

THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING

THE BALLAD OF THE SAD CAFÉ

CLOCK

THE SQUARE ROOT OF WONDERFUL

CLOCK WITHOUT HANDS

WITHOUT HANDS

by Carson McCullers

Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston

The Riverside Press Cambridge: 1961



Selections from Clock Without Hands have previously appeared in Botteghe Oscure, Harper's Bazaar, and Mademoiselle.

for Mary E. Mercer, M.D.

FIRST PRINTING

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Louise Dahl-Wolfe

Carson McCullers

A NOVEL "Carson McCullers

Clock without Hands Carson McCullers

With the publication of her first novel, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, Carson McCullers at twenty-two was immediately recognized as one of America's great living novelists. In each subsequent novel—Reflections in a Golden Eye, Member of the Wedding, and The Ballad of the Sad Café—she has continued to invade the silent, secret, sacred privacy of the souls of her characters and has left her readers astounded and enriched by the revelation.

The long-awaited Clock Without Hands once again plunges to the quick of life.

Here is a book which faces directly the overwhelming question of good and evil and reaffirms our faith in the dignity of life. J. T. Malone, the unwilling hero of this powerful novel, is engaged in an inner struggle that parallels his impending death. Through extreme moral suffering he discovers the greatest danger is not death but the loss of one's own self in life, and because of a decision of conscience, he acts and finds himself. His story is interwoven with that of the old Judge and former Congressman, Fox Clane, and Jester, the Judge's adolescent grandson. All three characters move to their accomplished destiny through Sherman

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Pew, a blue-eyed Negro boy. Their story is told with that curious blend of humor, compassion, irony and power, which characterizes all of Carson McCullers' writing.

The author herself says of this book, "It is about response and responsibility — of man toward his own livingness."

On Carson McCullers . . .

"I have found in her work such intensity and nobility of spirit as we have not had in our prose writing since Herman Melville." Tennessee Williams

"I recommend Carson McCullers to the discriminating public as the best living American writer."

David Garnett

"Carson McCullers has a great poet's eye and mind and senses, together with a great prose writer's sense of construction and character. She is a transcendental writer. There can be no slightest doubt of that."

Dame Edith Sitwell

"The most remarkable novelist, I think, to come out of America for a generation. Like all writers of original genius, Miss McCullers convinces us that we have missed something which was plainly to be seen in the real world . . . she is a master of peculiar perception and an incomparable story-teller . . . a writer of the highest class."

V. S. Pritchett

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter

The Solder Poor The Member The Member of the Ballad Cafe

The Sad Cafe

In A Reflections of the Sad Colden Eve

Clock Without Hands

A STRANGE AND COMPELLING LITERARY CONSTELLATION

Clock Without Hands



PHOTOGRAPH BY LOUISE DAHL WOLFE

Carson McCullers

"the best living American writer."

DAVID GARNETT

Carson McCullers

is a phenomenon in the firmament of American writing. Her first work, published when she was only twenty-two, shone forth as a brilliant new light on the literary horizon. The book struck deep into the souls of men with its unique quality of understanding and despair. Carson McCullers brought new life to the American novel by her promise of redemption by love. The first of her next two books starred on the best-sellers lists; the second was adapted into a play which won, among other honors, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. On the heels of her dramatic success came a collection of short stories headed by a masterpiece of a novella. Then once again the theatre drew out her genius. But as beautiful and moving as her second play was, people hoped Carson McCullers would create another novel. Now at last she has written that long-awaited book, Clock Without Hands. Already it has commanded attention and inspired spontaneous and overwhelming praise. Kermit Bloomgarden has announced he will produce a dramatized version of this very stage-worthy novel. In addition, foreign rights have been sold to England, France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Germany.

People the world over will be experiencing the powerful inner struggle of J. T. Malone, the unwilling hero of Clock Without Hands. Through extreme moral suffering he discovers the greatest danger is not death but the loss of one's own self in life, and because of a decision of conscience, he acts and finds himself. His story is interwoven with that of the old Judge and former Congressman, Fox Clane, and Jester, the Judge's adolescent grandson. All three characters move to their accomplished destiny through Sherman Pew, a blue-eyed Negro boy. Their story is told with that curious blend of humor, compassion, irony and power, which characterizes all of Carson McCullers' writing.

There are pages of quotes in praise of Clock Without Hands, but first let page one speak for the book itself—it does it eloquently.

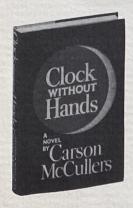
Clock Without Hands

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DEATH is always the same, but each man dies in his own way. For J. T. Malone it began in such a simple ordinary way that for a time he confused the end of life with the beginning of a new season. The winter of his fortieth year was an unusually cold one for the Southern town - with icy, pastel days and radiant nights. The spring came violently in middle March in that year of 1953, and Malone was lazy and peaked during those days of early blossoms and windy skies. He was a pharmacist and, diagnosing spring fever, he prescribed for himself a liver and iron tonic. Although he tired easily, he kept to his usual routine; He walked to work and his pharmacy was one of the first businesses open on the main street and he closed the store at six. He had dinner at a restaurant downtown and supper at home with his family. But his appetite was finicky and he lost weight steadily. When he changed from his winter suit to a light spring suit, the trousers hung in folds on his tall, wasted frame. His temples were shrunken so that the veins pulsed visibly when he chewed or swallowed and his Adam's apple struggled in his thin neck. But Malone saw no reason for alarm: His spring fever was unusually severe and he added to his tonic the old-fashioned course of sulphar and molasses - for when all was said and done the old remedies were the best. The thought must have solaced him for soon he felt a little better and started his annual vegetable garden. Then one day as he was compounding a prescription he swayed and fainted. He visited the doctor after this and there followed some tests at the City Hospital. Still he was not much worried; he had spring fever and the weakness of that complaint, and on a warm day he had fainted - a common, even natural thing. Malone had never considered his own death except in some twilight, unreckoned future, or in terms of life insurance. He was an ordinary, simple man and his own death was a phenomenon.

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ADVANCE REVIEWS



"In Clock Without Hands, Carson McCullers has once again, and more deeply than ever before examined the heart of man, with an understanding beyond knowledge, a compassion beyond sentiment and with a mastery of her medium that no other writer now living can hope to surpass, and with her own unique kind of humor, which, with the logic of contradictions is both tender and devastating."

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

"Carson McCullers has always had the power to arouse the mind and move the heart. Clock Without Hands does it again. No one but Carson McCullers could have written so individual a story so poignantly."

LOUIS UNTERMEYER

"... here we have a writer who not only sticks to her guns but keeps on improving her marksmanship. It's strange how anything so sad can be so happy, but the reason I suppose, is that Clock Without Hands has something considered and considerable to say about moral blindness and righteous perfidy as opposed to charity of spirit, and that these things can best be said in the way Mrs. McCullers says them—with the warmth of true compassion and incorrigible humor. I think highly of this book."

DOROTHY BAKER

"... in Clock Without Hands Carson McCullers has written her finest, most profound and compelling work . . . her story transcends time."

Alice Morris in HARPER'S BAZAAR

CLOCK WITHOUT HANDS - \$4.00

"I've read the new Carson McCullers with the usual pleasure. Other novels are visible and audible, but hers seems to have a taste and smell as well—a strange unmistakable quality."

GRAHAM GREENE

"To talk of this novel as a great sociological adventure is misleading. It is that—and more than that. To say Carson McCullers has written another fine novel is equally absurd because Carson McCullers and literature are inseparable entities. Let me say simply Clock Without Hands is an event. I pity you if you miss it."

HARRY GOLDEN

"I can never find critical words for such a rare novel as is Carson McCullers' Clock Without Hands. I react to such a superbly told story only in the personal, wishing to God that I could write like that. Her unwrapping of the cocoon that surrounds the 'sense of livingness' is achieved with invisible instruments and the tenderest love. She draws you into Malone's singular discovery of

the 'losing of one's self,' makes his shock yours and then her theme blossoms into the universal as you realize that this losing is what happens to all of us, painlessly and unperceived, in the sound and fury of today's living."

KATHRYN HULME

". . . interesting and timely and written with delicacy and great depth of understanding."

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY



Carson McCullers Set

With the publication of *Clock Without Hands* all of the previous prose works of Carson McCullers will be reissued in handsome uniform editions. The four-volume set will include:

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter
Reflections in a Golden Eye
The Member of the Wedding
Collected Short Stories and the Novella
The Ballad of the Sad Café



\$14.00 for the set HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

Reviews of Works in Set

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter

"Carson McCullers is a full-fledged novelist whatever her age. She writes with a sweep and certainty that are overwhelming. The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter is a first novel. One anticipates the second with something like fear. So high is the standard she has set. It doesn't seem possible she can reach it again."

Rose Feld in the New York Times

"Here is a new voice speaking about new American spiritual country."

CLIFTON FADIMAN in the New Yorker

Reflections in a Golden Eye

"When Mrs. McCullers shows you the Major going to bed, tells of the runaway through the forest, touches ever so skillfully the capricious and unexpected Filipino, when she gives you the very press and heat of the buffet supper, you know that you have seen an artist at work."

EDWARD WEEKS in the Atlantic Monthly

"It is as though William Faulkner saw to the bottom of matters which merely excite him, and his stylistic faults, and wrote it all out with Tolstoyan lucidity. . . . The novel is a masterpiece. It is as mature and finished as Henry James' Turn of the Screw."

Time

"Reflections in a Golden Eye has no literary ancestors, although there will be those who will see in the powerful situations something of D. H. Lawrence and something of Dostoievsky."

LOUIS UNTERMEYER

The Member of the Wedding

"The tremendous feeling of the world lost, and meaning lost; of life recovered and meaning recovered; the merciful power of the young to forget, and thus be healed of fractures, is one of the realest things about this fine book."

Francis Downing in the Commonweal

The Ballad of the Sad Café

"It is Carson McCullers at her best, and McCullers at her best is writing of the very first order, and on the highest levels of style, feeling, and poetic symbolism."

IAMES LAUGHLIN

In Praise of Carson McCullers' Collected Writing

"I have found in her work such intensity and nobility of spirit as we have not had in our prose writing since Herman Melville. . . . She should be reassured by the constantly more abundant evidence that the work she has already accomplished is not eclipsed by time but further illumined."

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Carson McCullers has a great poet's eye and mind and senses together with a great prose writer's sense of construction and character. She is a transcendental writer. There can be no slightest doubt of that."

DAME EDITH SITWELL

"Like all writers of original genius, Mrs. McCullers convinces us that we have missed something which was plainly to be seen in the real world. . . . She is a master of peculiar perception and an incomparable story-teller . . . a writer of the highest class."

V. S. PRICHETT

