

one of ours by willa cather

One of Ours by Willa Cather: A Deep Dive into a Classic American Novel

one of ours by willa cather stands as a significant work in American literature, capturing the essence of early 20th-century life and the profound effects of World War I on individuals and society. Published in 1922, this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel offers readers a compelling narrative centered on the life of Claude Wheeler, a young Nebraskan who seeks meaning beyond the confines of his rural upbringing. Willa Cather's storytelling weaves themes of identity, patriotism, and the search for purpose, making it a timeless piece that continues to resonate with readers and scholars alike.

Understanding One of Ours by Willa Cather

When exploring the depths of *one of ours* by Willa Cather, it's essential to grasp both its historical context and thematic layers. The novel is set against the backdrop of World War I, a period that reshaped nations and individual destinies. Cather's portrayal of Claude Wheeler's journey—from a restless Midwestern youth to a soldier finding his place amidst the chaos of war—reflects broader American sentiments during that era.

The Plot and Its Significance

At its core, *one of ours* by Willa Cather follows Claude Wheeler, a young man born into a traditional farming family in Nebraska. Feeling stifled by the expectations of his community and family, Claude longs for something more meaningful. His enlistment in the army during World War I symbolizes his quest for identity and purpose. The narrative chronicles his transformation through the horrors and camaraderie of war, ultimately offering a poignant commentary on the sacrifices and disillusionments experienced by many young men of that time.

Themes and Symbolism

Several themes stand out prominently in *one of ours* by Willa Cather:

- **Search for Identity:** Claude's struggle to define himself beyond societal roles is central to the story.
- **Patriotism and Disillusionment:** The novel explores the tension between idealistic patriotism and the brutal realities of war.
- **Connection to the Land:** The Nebraska landscape serves as a symbol of home and tradition, contrasting with the alienation Claude feels.
- **Sacrifice and Heroism:** Cather presents a nuanced view of heroism, focusing on personal courage rather than grandiose glory.

These themes are intricately woven through the characters' experiences and the vivid descriptions of both rural America and the European battlefields.

Willa Cather's Writing Style and Literary Techniques

One of the reasons one of ours by Willa Cather remains a classic is her distinctive prose style and literary craftsmanship. Cather's writing is known for its clarity, lyrical quality, and deep sense of place, all of which contribute to the novel's immersive atmosphere.

Realism and Regionalism

Cather employs realism to depict the everyday lives of the Midwest settlers, capturing the simplicity and hardships of farm life. Her use of regionalism is evident in the authentic portrayal of Nebraska's landscape, dialects, and social customs, grounding the story in a specific cultural context that enriches the narrative.

Character Development

Claude Wheeler's character is complex and evolving. Cather's nuanced approach allows readers to empathize with his internal conflicts and growth. Supporting characters are also crafted with care, reflecting the diverse perspectives and challenges of the time.

Imagery and Symbolism

The novel's imagery, from the vast plains of Nebraska to the grim trenches of World War I, serves as powerful metaphors for freedom, confinement, and transformation. Cather's use of symbolism enhances the emotional depth and thematic resonance of the story.

The Historical and Cultural Impact of One of Ours by Willa Cather

One of ours by Willa Cather not only offers a personal narrative but also provides valuable insights into American society during the early 1900s. Its depiction of World War I veterans and the Midwest contributes to a broader understanding of American identity and literature.

Reception and Awards

The novel was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the Novel in 1923, a testament to its literary merit and impact. Critics praised Cather for her sensitive portrayal of war and her skillful storytelling, although some debated the romanticized elements of the war narrative.

Influence on American Literature

One of ours by Willa Cather has influenced numerous writers interested in themes of war, identity, and regionalism. Its blend of personal and historical storytelling has become a model for novels exploring the American experience during times of conflict.

Modern Relevance

Today, readers find in one of ours by Willa Cather a reflection on the universal quest for meaning and the costs of war—topics that remain pertinent. The novel encourages reflection on how historical events shape individual lives and cultural memory.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating One of Ours by Willa Cather

If you're approaching one of ours by Willa Cather for the first time, here are some suggestions to enhance your reading experience:

- **Understand the Historical Context:** Familiarize yourself with World War I and early 20th-century American society to better appreciate the novel's backdrop.
- **Pay Attention to Setting:** Notice how the Nebraska landscape contrasts with European battlefields and what this contrast signifies for Claude's inner journey.
- **Reflect on Themes:** Consider the themes of identity, sacrifice, and patriotism as they relate to contemporary issues.
- **Explore Secondary Characters:** Their interactions with Claude provide insight into societal norms and pressures of the time.
- **Take Note of Literary Devices:** Look for symbolism and imagery that deepen the story's emotional impact.

Engaging with the novel through these lenses can reveal layers of meaning that enrich your understanding and appreciation.

Exploring Adaptations and Critical Analysis

While one of ours by Willa Cather hasn't seen widespread adaptations like some other classic novels, its themes and narrative have inspired various critical discussions and academic studies.

Literary Criticism and Interpretations

Scholars often analyze the novel through the perspectives of gender, regional identity, and the depiction of war trauma. Cather's portrayal of Claude's internal conflicts invites psychoanalytic readings, while the novel's focus on the American Midwest contributes to regional literary studies.

Potential Adaptations

Given its rich narrative and emotional depth, one of ours by Willa Cather would be well-suited for film or stage adaptations. The vivid settings and complex characters offer ample material for dramatization, though capturing the novel's introspective qualities would be essential.

Why One of Ours by Willa Cather Remains a Must-Read

Ultimately, one of ours by Willa Cather endures because it speaks to timeless human experiences through the lens of a specific historical moment. Its exploration of a young man's search for meaning during a transformative period in history resonates across generations, making it a valuable addition to any literary collection.

Whether you are a student, a literature enthusiast, or someone interested in American history, immersing yourself in one of ours by Willa Cather promises a rewarding journey through the complexities of identity, sacrifice, and the enduring quest for purpose.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'One of Ours' by Willa Cather?

'One of Ours' explores themes of individualism, the search for purpose, and the impact of war on personal identity, focusing on the protagonist's journey from a mundane life to finding meaning through World War I.

Who is the protagonist of 'One of Ours' and what is his significance?

The protagonist is Claude Wheeler, a young Nebraskan who struggles with dissatisfaction in his rural life and ultimately enlists in World War I, representing the quest for meaning and the clash between traditional values and modern experiences.

How does Willa Cather depict World War I in 'One of

Ours'?

Cather portrays World War I as a complex and transformative experience, emphasizing both the horrors of war and its role in providing Claude with a sense of purpose and self-realization.

What role does the Nebraska setting play in 'One of Ours'?

The Nebraska setting symbolizes the constraints of rural American life and traditional values, from which Claude seeks escape and growth, highlighting the contrast between the familiar home front and the broader world.

Why did Willa Cather write 'One of Ours' and how was it received?

Cather wrote 'One of Ours' to address the impact of World War I on American youth and society. It won the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 and was praised for its vivid narrative, though some critics debated its portrayal of war.

How does 'One of Ours' compare to Willa Cather's earlier works?

'One of Ours' marks a shift from Cather's earlier regional focus on frontier life to a more expansive exploration of modernity and war, blending her rich character development with broader historical themes.

What is the significance of Claude Wheeler's death in 'One of Ours'?

Claude's death symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice and the tragic cost of war, but also serves as a poignant conclusion to his quest for meaning, affirming the novel's meditation on heroism and loss.

How does 'One of Ours' address the theme of alienation?

The novel explores alienation through Claude's feelings of isolation from his family, society, and even himself, which drive his decision to join the war as a way to find connection and identity.

Additional Resources

One of Ours by Willa Cather: A Literary Exploration of Identity and War

one of ours by willa cather stands as a significant work in early 20th-century American literature, offering a profound exploration of personal identity amid the backdrop of World War I. Published in 1922, this novel marked a departure for Cather, who was already well-known for her depictions of frontier life. Instead, *One of Ours* delves into the complex emotional and psychological journeys of an American soldier, Claude Wheeler, whose internal conflicts mirror broader themes of displacement, purpose, and patriotism.

Contextualizing One of Ours by Willa Cather

Set during a period when the United States grappled with its emerging role on the global stage, *One of Ours* reflects the cultural and societal tensions of the post-World War I era. Unlike Cather's earlier regionalist works, this novel adopts a more expansive lens, engaging with themes of existential search and the disillusionment that followed the war. It is noteworthy that *One of Ours* won the Pulitzer Prize for the Novel in 1923, underscoring its contemporary reception and critical acclaim.

The story centers on Claude Wheeler, a young Nebraskan who struggles with the constraints of rural life and societal expectations. His decision to join the military is not merely an act of patriotism but a quest for meaning beyond the parochial confines of his upbringing. Through Claude's experiences in the trenches of France, Cather probes the transformative impact of war on individual identity and cultural values.

In-Depth Analysis of Narrative and Themes

One of Ours by Willa Cather is often analyzed for its rich narrative structure and thematic depth. The novel juxtaposes the protagonist's mundane existence in Nebraska with the harrowing realities of combat, creating a compelling tension that drives the narrative forward.

The Quest for Identity and Meaning

Claude Wheeler's character arc is emblematic of the universal human desire to find purpose. Initially portrayed as restless and misunderstood, Claude's enlistment is framed as a deliberate break from the expectations imposed by family and society. His internal monologues reveal a young man wrestling with feelings of alienation, which resonate with readers confronting their own quests for self-understanding.

Depiction of War and Its Psychological Impact

Unlike the graphic realism found in some war literature, Cather's portrayal of World War I in *One of Ours* emphasizes the emotional and spiritual dimensions of warfare. The narrative captures the chaos and camaraderie of the trenches but also delves into the profound sense of loss and disillusionment that soldiers experienced. This approach offers a nuanced perspective that balances the horrors of combat with moments of personal growth and resilience.

Stylistic Features and Literary Techniques

Cather employs a restrained yet evocative prose style that enhances the introspective nature of the novel. Her use of vivid imagery, especially in contrasting the Nebraska plains with the European battlefields, underscores the protagonist's internal conflicts. Additionally, the narrative's

pacing—alternating between reflective passages and intense action
sequences—maintains reader engagement while deepening thematic resonance.

Comparative Perspectives and Critical Reception

When situating *One of Ours* by Willa Cather within the broader canon of war literature, it is instructive to compare it with contemporaneous works such as Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* or Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*. While those novels focus more explicitly on the brutality of war and its futility, Cather's novel is distinguished by its emphasis on personal transformation and the search for meaning beyond mere survival.

Critics have praised the novel for its lyrical quality and psychological insight, though some have noted that its romanticized elements contrast with the more stark portrayals of warfare prevalent in other literature of the period. This divergence points to Cather's unique literary vision, one that balances realism with a contemplative exploration of hope and human dignity.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** Rich character development, nuanced emotional portrayal, and a compelling narrative that bridges regional and global perspectives.
- **Limitations:** At times, the pacing may feel uneven, and some readers might find the idealism less aligned with the grim realities of war depicted elsewhere.

Relevance and Legacy in Contemporary Literature

One of Ours by Willa Cather remains a relevant text for modern readers interested in the intersections of war, identity, and American cultural history. Its exploration of the psychological aftermath of conflict anticipates themes found in later 20th-century literature and continues to offer valuable insights into the human condition.

Moreover, the novel invites ongoing scholarly discussion regarding gender roles, nationalism, and the literary representation of trauma. Its place in academic curricula and discussions around war narratives attests to its enduring significance.

In tracing Claude Wheeler's journey, readers are reminded that the quest for selfhood often unfolds amid the most turbulent circumstances. *One of Ours* by Willa Cather thus stands as a testament to literature's capacity to illuminate the complexities of human experience, transcending its historical moment to speak to universal themes.

One Of Ours By Willa Cather

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2017-11-26 One of Ours By Willa Cather CLASSIC AMERICAN NOVELS One of Ours is a novel by Willa Cather that won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native around the turn of the 20th century. While attending Temple College, Claude tried to convince his parents that attending the State University would give him a better education. His parents ignore his pleas and Claude continues at the Christian college. After a football game, Claude meets and befriends the Erlich family, quickly adapting his own world perception to the Erlichs' love of music, free-thinking, and debate. His career at university and his friendship with the Erlichs are dramatically interrupted, however, when his father expands the family farm and Claude is obligated to leave university and operate part of the family farm.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 1991-11-05 Willa Cather's Pulitzer Prize-winning narrative of the making of a young American soldier. Claude Wheeler, the sensitive, aspiring protagonist of this beautifully modulated novel, resembles the youngest son of a peculiarly American fairy tale. His fortune is ready-made for him, but he refuses to settle for it. Alienated from his crass father and pious mother, all but rejected by a wife who reserves her ardor for missionary work, and dissatisfied with farming, Claude is an idealist without an ideal to cling to. It is only when his country enters the First World War that Claude finds what he has been searching for all his life. In One of Ours Willa Cather explores the destiny of a grandchild of the pioneers, a young Nebraskan whose yearnings impel him toward a frontier bloodier and more distant than the one that vanished before his birth. In doing so, she creates a canny and extraordinarily vital portrait of an American psyche at once skeptical and romantic, restless and heroic.

one of ours by willa cather: One Of Ours by Willa Cather Willa Cather, 1922 One of Ours is a novel by Willa Cather that won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native in the first decades of the 20th century. The son of a successful farmer and an intensely pious mother, he is guaranteed a comfortable livelihood. Nevertheless, Wheeler views himself as a victim of his father's success and his own inexplicable malaise. While attending Temple College, Claude tried to convince his parents that attending the State University would give him a better education. His parents ignore his pleas and Claude continues at the Christian college. After a football game, Claude meets and befriends the Erlich family, quickly adapting his own world perception to the Erlichs' love of music, free-thinking, and debate. His career at university and his friendship with the Erlichs are dramatically interrupted, however, when his father expands the family farm and Claude is obligated to leave university and operate part of the family farm. Once pinned to the farm, Claude marries Enid Royce, a childhood friend. His notions of love and marriage are quickly devastated when it becomes apparent that Enid is more interested in political activism and Christian missionary work than she is in loving and caring for Claude. When Enid departs for China to care for her missionary sister, who has suddenly fallen ill, Claude moves back to his family's farm. As World War I begins in Europe, the family is fixated on every development from overseas. When the United States decides to enter the war, Claude enlists in the US Army.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Annotated Willa Cather, 2020-12-06 One of Ours is a novel by Willa Cather that won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native in the first decades of the 20th century. The son of a successful farmer and an intensely pious mother, he is guaranteed a comfortable livelihood.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2017-09-11 One of Ours by Willa Cather - A 1923 Pulitzer Prize Winning Novel..... It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native around the turn of the 20th century. The son of a successful farmer and an intensely pious mother, he is guaranteed a comfortable livelihood. Nevertheless, Wheeler views himself as a victim of his father's success and his own inexplicable malaise..... While attending Temple College, Claude

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one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2021-07-03T18:45:52Z Claude Wheeler is the son of a successful Nebraskan farmer and a very devout mother. He's sent to a private religious college because his mother feels it's safer, but he yearns for State college where he might be able to expand his knowledge of the real world. Claude doesn't feel comfortable in any situation, and almost every step he takes is a wrong one. While he's struggling to find his way in a questionable marriage, the U.S. decides to enter World War I, and Claude enlists. He's commissioned as a lieutenant, and he and his outfit are deployed to France in the waning months of the war. There Claude finds the purpose he's been missing his whole life. *One of Ours* is Cather's first novel following the completion of her *Prairie Trilogy*, which she finished before the U.S. had entered the war. Cather's cousin Grosvenor had grown up on the farm next to hers, had many of the traits she gave to Claude, and, like her protagonist, went with the Army to France towards the end of the war. After the war was over, she felt compelled to write something different than the novels she had become known for, saying that this one "stood between me and anything else." Although today it's not considered her best work, the novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1923. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2023-10-01 Step into the vivid and evocative world of *One of Ours* by Willa Cather, a poignant exploration of love, duty, and the search for meaning amidst the chaos of war. Follow the journey of Claude Wheeler, a restless young man searching for purpose and fulfillment in the midst of rural Nebraska. As he grapples with the constraints of small-town life and the expectations of family and society, Claude yearns for adventure and excitement beyond the confines of his upbringing. Explore the themes of longing, identity, and sacrifice as you accompany Claude on his transformative journey from the American heartland to the battlefields of World War I. Through Cather's exquisite prose and keen insight into the human psyche, readers are transported to a world where courage and compassion collide with the harsh realities of war. With its richly drawn characters and powerful emotional resonance, *One of Ours* is a testament to Cather's storytelling prowess and her ability to capture the essence of the American experience. From the sun-drenched plains of Nebraska to the muddy trenches of France, each page brims with authenticity and depth, inviting readers to contemplate the true cost of freedom and the fleeting nature of life itself. Experience the thrill of literary discovery as you lose yourself in the pages of Cather's masterful novel. Whether you're drawn to tales of heroism, romance, or existential introspection, *One of Ours* offers something for every reader to savor and contemplate. Join the ranks of captivated readers who have been moved by Cather's timeless exploration of love, loss, and the search for meaning in a world torn apart by war. Whether you're a longtime fan of her work or discovering her writing for the first time, *One of Ours* is sure to leave a lasting impression and linger in your thoughts long after you've turned the final page. Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of *One of Ours* by Willa Cather. Let her exquisite prose and poignant storytelling transport you to a world where the human spirit shines brightest in the darkest of times.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Edna Ferber, Willa Cather, 2003-09-01 The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a young Nebraskan looking for something to believe in. Alienated from his parents, rejected by his wife, he finds his destiny on the bloody battlefields of World War I.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2017-03-21 *One of Ours* is a novel by Willa Cather that won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native around the turn of the 20th century. The son of a successful farmer and an intensely pious mother, he is guaranteed a comfortable livelihood. Nevertheless, Wheeler views

himself as a victim of his father's success and his own inexplicable malaise.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2007-02-27 In Willa Cather's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, we meet Claude Wheeler, a young Nebraskan yearning to escape the life that has been preordained for him. Claude is dissatisfied with farming, alienated from his parents, distant from his wife, and searching for something to believe in. When the country enters the First World War, he finally discovers what he's been looking for. Away from home for the first time, Claude finds the course of his life irrevocably altered by newfound friendships and experiences on distant battlefields. One of Ours continues to be a celebratory tribute — and a grief-stricken remembrance — of World War I. It is at once a courageous and poignant story of American ideals, an extraordinary character sketch, and a disquieting look at the making of an American soldier.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Illustrated Willa Cather, 2020-10-23 One of Ours is Willa Cather's 1923 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the making of an American soldier. Claude Wheeler, the sensitive but aspiring protagonist, has ready access to his family's fortune but refuses to settle for it. Alienated from his uncaring father and pious mother, and rejected by a wife whose only love is missionary work, Claude is an idealist without ideals to cling to. Only when his country enters the Great War does he find the meaning of his life.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours (Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1923) Illustrated Willa Cather, 2021-04-15 Claude Wheeler craves excitement, far more than he can ever find as a farmer's son. He encounters more at university, where the modern world beyond farm life offers new thrills and challenges, only to lose them as the farm calls him back. World War I offers him even more . . . but he may crave excitement more than life itself can allow. Wanting it as much as he does can't protect him from the consequences of personal bravado in an age of killing machines.

one of ours by willa cather: Willa Cather - One of Ours Willa Cather, 2016-09-14 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1923 Claude Wheeler craves excitement, far more than he can ever find as a farmer's son. He encounters more at university, where the modern world beyond farm life offers new thrills and challenges, only to lose them as the farm calls him back. World War I offers him even more . . . but he may crave excitement more than life itself can allow. Wanting it as much as he does can't protect him from the consequences of personal bravado in an age of killing machines.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2019-02-03 One of Ours is a novel by Willa Cather that won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native around the turn of the 20th century. The son of a successful farmer and an intensely pious mother, he is guaranteed a comfortable livelihood. Nevertheless, Wheeler views himself as a victim of his father's success and his own inexplicable malaise. Plot While attending Temple College, Claude tried to convince his parents that attending the State University would give him a better education. His parents ignore his pleas and Claude continues at the Christian college. After a football game, Claude meets and befriends the Erlich family, quickly adapting his own world perception to the Erlichs' love of music, free-thinking, and debate. His career at university and his friendship with the Erlichs are dramatically interrupted, however, when his father expands the family farm and Claude is obligated to leave university and operate part of the family farm. Once pinned to the farm, Claude marries Enid Royce, a childhood friend. His notions of love and marriage are quickly devastated when it becomes apparent that Enid is more interested in political activism and Christian missionary work than she is in loving and caring for Claude. When Enid departs for China to care for her missionary sister, who has suddenly fallen ill, Claude moves back to his family's farm. As World War I begins in Europe, the family is fixated on every development from overseas. When the United States decides to enter the war, Claude enlists in the US Army. Finally believing he has found a purpose in life - beyond the drudgery of farming and marriage - Claude revels in his freedom and new responsibilities. Despite an influenza epidemic and the continuing hardships of the battlefield, Claude Wheeler nonetheless has never felt as though he has mattered more. His pursuit of vague notions of purpose and principle culminates in a ferocious front-line encounter with an overwhelming German onslaught.... Willa Sibert Cather (December 7, 1873 - April 24, 1947) was an American writer who achieved recognition for her novels of frontier life on the Great Plains,

including *O Pioneers!* (1913), *The Song of the Lark* (1915), and *My Ántonia* (1918). In 1923 she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours* (1922), a novel set during World War I. Cather graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She lived and worked in Pittsburgh for ten years, supporting herself as a magazine editor and high school English teacher. At the age of 33 she moved to New York City, her primary home for the rest of her life, though she also traveled widely and spent considerable time at her summer residence on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick. Early life and education Cather was born Wilella Sibert Cather in 1873 on her maternal grandmother's farm in the Back Creek Valley near Winchester, Virginia. Her father was Charles Fectigue Cather (d. 1928), whose family had lived on land in the valley for six generations. Cather's family originated in Wales, the family name deriving from Cadair Idris, a mountain in Gwynedd. Her mother was Mary Virginia Boak (died 1931), a former school teacher. Within a year of Cather's birth, the family moved to Willow Shade, a Greek Revival-style home on 130 acres given to them by her paternal grandparents. At the urging of Charles Cather's parents, the family moved to Nebraska in 1883 when Willa was nine years old. The rich, flat farmland appealed to Charles' father, and the family wished to escape the tuberculosis outbreaks that were rampant in Virginia. Willa's father tried his hand at farming for eighteen months; then he moved the family into the town of Red Cloud, where he opened a real estate and insurance business, and the children attended school for the first time. Some of the earliest work produced by Cather was first published in the *Red Cloud Chief*, the city's local paper.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2019-10-18 Claude Wheeler craves excitement, far more than he can ever find as a farmer's son. He encounters more at university, where the modern world beyond farm life offers new thrills and challenges, only to lose them as the farm calls him back. World War I offers him even more . . . but he may crave excitement more than life itself can allow. Wanting it as much as he does can't protect him from the consequences of personal bravado in an age of killing machines.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2010-11-25 *One of Ours* tells the story of a Nebraska farm boy who struggles to find meaning in his life. It is the story of a young man born after the American frontier has vanished, yet whose quintessentially American restlessness seeks redemption on a frontier far bloodier and more distant than that which his forefathers had already tamed. Before the war, Claude comes close to finding value in the world when his parents allow him to attend the University of Nebraska. Living in Lincoln he befriends the Ehrlich family, who expose him to a life of art, ideas, and culture. Later, when forced to return to his father's farm, Claude seeks to find meaning in the form of human companionship. His attempt to find individual affirmation in the form of marriage fails, however, and the loneliness Claude encounters from his unaffectionate wife Enid compels him to volunteer in the overseas conflict. Claude's violent death on the battlefield - portrayed as sacrificial and glorious by Cather in the mind of Claude's mother - appealed to millions of Americans and probably played a role in the decision to award Cather the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours* a year after it was published in 1922.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours M J Silva, Willa Cather, 2020-07-10 While attending Temple College, Claude tried to convince his parents that attending the State University would give him a better education. His parents ignore his pleas and Claude continues at the Christian college. After a football game, Claude meets and befriends the Erlich family, quickly adapting his own world perception to the Erlichs' love of music, free-thinking, and debate. His career at university and his friendship with the Erlichs are dramatically interrupted, however, when his father expands the family farm and Claude is obligated to leave university and operate part of the family farm.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours Willa Cather, 2018-10-15 *One of Ours* is Willa Cather's 1923 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the making of an American soldier. Claude Wheeler, the sensitive but aspiring protagonist, has ready access to his family's fortune but refuses to settle for it. Alienated from his uncaring father and pious mother, and rejected by a wife whose only love is missionary work, Claude is an idealist without ideals to cling to. Only when his country enters the Great War does he find the meaning of his life.

one of ours by willa cather: One of Ours / the Beautiful and Damned Willa S / F Scott

Cather, Ghislaine Burlet, 2017-01-07 This book is the second of four volumes and presents one novel by Willa Cather and one by F. Scott Fitzgerald, regarded as Two of The Greatest American Writers of the 20th Century. Willa Cather Vs Scott Fitzgerald Volume I. (First Novel): Alexander's Bridge / This Side of Paradise Volume II: One of Ours / The Beautiful and Damned Volume III: The Professor's House / The Great Gatsby Volume IV. (Last Novel): Sapphira and the Slave Girl / Tender is the Night

One of Ours is a novel by Willa Cather that won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native around the turn of the 20th century. The son of a successful farmer and an intensely pious mother, he is guaranteed a comfortable livelihood. Nevertheless, Wheeler views himself as a victim of his father's success and his own inexplicable malaise. While attending Temple College, Claude tried to convince his parents that attending the State University would give him a better education. His parents ignore his pleas and Claude continues at the Christian college. After a football game, Claude meets and befriends the Erlich family, quickly adapting his own world perception to the Erlichs' love of music, free-thinking, and debate. His career at university and his friendship with the Erlichs are dramatically interrupted, however, when his father expands the family farm and Claude is obligated to leave university and operate part of the family farm. Once pinned to the farm, Claude marries Enid Royce, a childhood friend. His notions of love and marriage are quickly devastated when it becomes apparent that Enid is more interested in political activism and Christian missionary work than she is in loving and caring for Claude. When Enid departs for China to care for her missionary sister, who has suddenly fallen ill, Claude moves back to his family's farm. As World War I begins in Europe, the family is fixated on every development from overseas. When the United States decides to enter the war, Claude enlists in the US Army. Finally believing he has found a purpose in life - beyond the drudgery of farming and marriage - Claude revels in his freedom and new responsibilities. Despite an influenza epidemic and the continuing hardships of the battlefield, Claude Wheeler nonetheless has never felt as though he has mattered more. His pursuit of vague notions of purpose and principle culminates in a ferocious front-line encounter with an overwhelming German onslaught. It is a portrait of a peculiarly American personality, a young man born after the American frontier has vanished, whose quintessentially American restlessness seeks redemption on a frontier far bloodier and more distant than that which his forefathers tamed. The Beautiful and Damned, first published by Scribner's in 1922, is F. Scott Fitzgerald's second novel. It explores and portrays New York cafe society and the American Eastern elite during the Jazz Age before and after the Great War and in the early 1920s. As in his other novels, Fitzgerald's characters in this novel are complex, especially with respect to marriage and intimacy. The work is generally considered to have drawn upon and be based on Fitzgerald's relationship and marriage with his wife Zelda Fitzgerald. This novel tells the story of Anthony Patch, a 1910s socialite and presumptive heir to a tycoon's fortune, and his courtship and relationship with his wife Gloria Gilbert. It describes his brief service in the Army during World War I, and the couple's post-war partying life in New York, and his later alcoholism. Gloria and Anthony's love story is much more than just a couple falling in love. Their story deals with the hardships of a relationship, especially when each character has a tendency to be selfish. Joanna Stolarek suggests, Fitzgerald draws on Zelda, the object of the writer's literary passion.

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