

The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter Carson McCullers

What happens when a too charmin' for words, overnight success of a reluctant southern popstar crosses paths with everyone's worst nightmare; houseguests from New Jersey? Well, gosh dangit. Romance novels just ain't what they used ta be, that's what.

A Study Guide for Carson McCullers's "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

When she was only twenty-three, Carson McCullers's first novel created a literary sensation. She was very special, one of America's superlative writers who conjures up a vision of existence as terrible as it is real, who takes us on shattering voyages into the depths of the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition. This novel is the work of a supreme artist, Carson McCullers's enduring masterpiece. The heroine is the strange young girl, Mick Kelly. The setting is a small Southern town, the cosmos universal and eternal. The characters are the damned, the voiceless, the rejected. Some fight their loneliness with violence and depravity, Some with sex or drink, and some -- like Mick -- with a quiet, intensely personal search for beauty. "From the Paperback edition."

Unabridged/1 audio cd/28:58 min.

Contains two of the author's most prominent works which highlight life in small town Georgia and the turmoils of adolescence.

When *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* was published in 1940, Carson McCullers was instantly recognized as one of the most promising writers of her generation. The novels that followed established her as a master of Southern Gothic. This Library of America volume collects McCullers's complete novels for the first time in a single-volume edition that reveals the power and breadth of her haunting vision. "McCullers's gift," writes Joyce Carol Oates, "was to evoke, through an accumulation of images and musically repeated phrases, the singularity of experience, not to pass judgment on it." McCullers effortlessly conveyed the raw anguish of her characters and the weird beauty of their perceptions. Set in small Georgia towns that are at once precisely observed and mythically resonant, McCullers's novels explore the strange, sometimes grotesque inner lives of characters who are often marginal and misunderstood. Above all, McCullers possessed an unmatched ability to capture the bewilderment and fragile wonder of adolescence. In *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* (1940), one of the most extraordinary debuts in modern American literature, an enigmatic deaf-mute draws out the haunted confessions of an itinerant worker, a young girl, a doctor, and a widowed owner of a small-town café. The disfiguring violence of desire is explored with shocking intensity in two shorter works, *Reflections in a Golden Eye* (1941) and *The Ballad of the Sad Café* (1943). *The Member of the Wedding* (1946), thought by many to be McCullers's masterpiece, hauntingly depicts a young girl's fascination with her brother's wedding. In 13-year-old Frankie Addams, confused, easily wounded, yet determined to survive, McCullers created her most indelible protagonist. *Clock Without Hands* (1960), her final novel, was completed against great odds in the midst of tremendous physical suffering. Set against the background of court-ordered school integration, it contains some of McCullers's most forceful social criticism. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Teacher's guide and reproducible activity sheets for use in studying the novel.

THE STORY: Adapted from the novel by Carson McCullers, *THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER* explores a universal longing for connection. At its center is John Singer, a lonely deaf man, who becomes the confidant to a constellation of disparate souls--an ang With the publication of her first novel, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, Carson McCullers, all of twenty-three, became a literary sensation. With its profound sense of moral isolation and its compassionate glimpses into its characters' inner lives, the novel is considered McCullers' finest work, an enduring masterpiece first published by Houghton Mifflin in 1940. At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer, who becomes the confidant for various types of misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s. Each one yearns for escape from small town life. When Singer's mute companion goes insane, Singer moves into the Kelly house, where Mick Kelly, the book's heroine (and loosely based on McCullers), finds solace in her music. Wonderfully attuned to the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition, and with a deft sense for racial tensions in the South, McCullers spins a haunting, unforgettable story that gives voice to the rejected, the forgotten, and the mistreated—and, through Mick Kelly, gives voice to the quiet, intensely personal search for beauty. Richard Wright praised Carson McCullers for her ability "to rise above the pressures of her environment and embrace white and black humanity in one sweep of apprehension and tenderness." She writes "with a sweep and certainty that are overwhelming," said the *New York Times*. McCullers became an overnight literary sensation, but her novel has endured, just as timely and powerful today as when it was first published. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* is Carson McCullers at her most compassionate, endearing best.

Readings of excerpts and critical analysis.

Sylvia Stanton has to wonder how every other man on campus can appreciate her except for that sorry, no-good Chad. After a bad decision on Sylvia's part, Chad is intent on making her pay for her indiscretion. Will Chad's actions on that traumatizing night pave the way for all of Sylvia's future relationships? They're all the same--the Chads, the Peters, the Williams--and now there's Terrance. All Sylvia is looking for is a man that has some of the same qualities as her father. She isn't looking for drop-dead good looks or money. All she needs to be happy is a good, strong man who is intelligent, who will love her for the woman she is, and with whom she can grow old. After all, there are women who don't have half the charm and good looks that she has, and they're walking around arm in arm with some beautiful brothers. At least that's the way it seems on the outside looking in. Sylvia would do anything to keep a man happy and satisfied. Yet here

she is-stuck in Atlanta, still wishing and hoping. Will she ever find Mr. Right?

A sensitive teenage girl discovers the meaning of loneliness.

The perfect companion to Carson McCullers's *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*," this study guide contains a chapter by chapter analysis of the book, a summary of the plot, and a guide to major characters and themes. BookCap Study Guides do not contain text from the actual book, and are not meant to be purchased as alternatives to reading the book. We all need refreshers every now and then. Whether you are a student trying to cram for that big final, or someone just trying to understand a book more, BookCaps can help. We are a small, but growing company, and are adding titles every month.

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