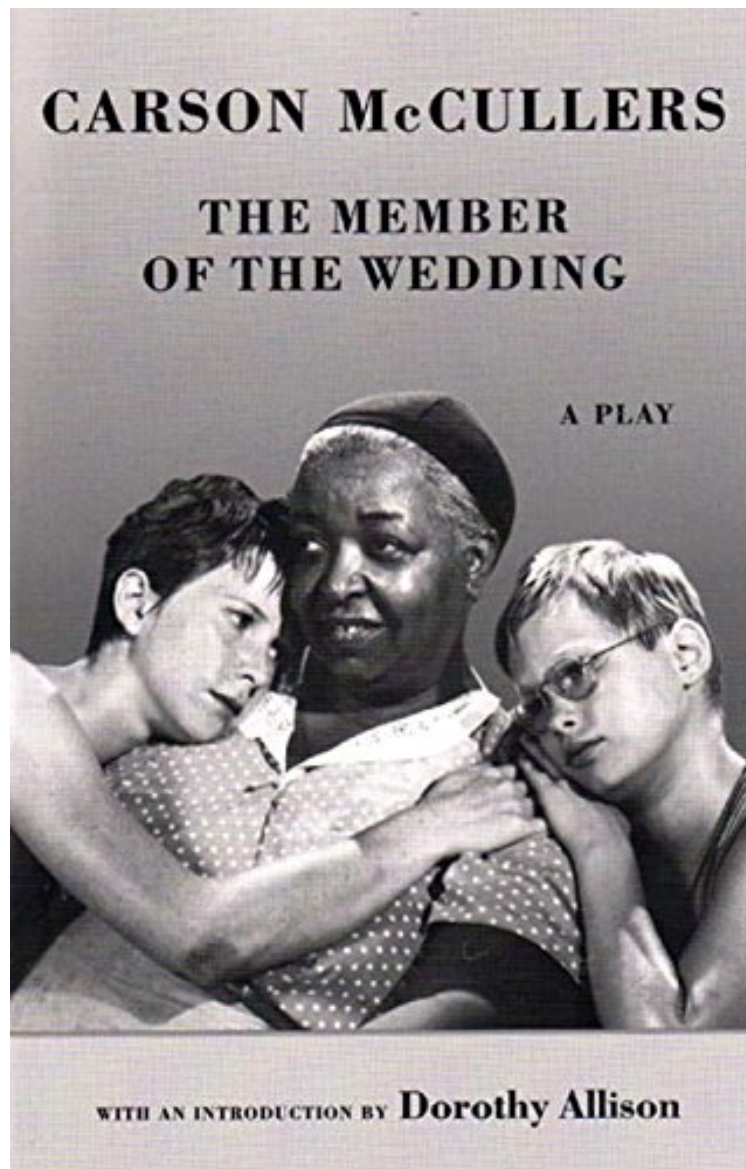


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The Member of the Wedding: The Play (New Edition) (New Directions Paperbook)

Carson McCullers

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#496966 in Books New Directions 2006-05-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .50 x 5.30l, .36
#File Name: 0811216551144 pages | File size: 74.Mb

Carson McCullers : The Member of the Wedding: The Play (New Edition) (New Directions Paperbook) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Member of the Wedding: The Play (New Edition) (New Directions Paperbook):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not as good as expected
By Mary C
This is a story of 12 year old Frances who lives in the south during WW11, She becomes infatuated with the idea of her older brothers wedding and much angst ensues. Her widowed father is a shadowy figure and the non nonsense black maid Bernice, tries to comfort and advise the girl. The story drags in the middle as Frances' longings and Bernice's many marriages are recounted over and over. Yet it is still a solid story with much pathos.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Appealed to a middle aged mother and two 13 year olds
By Mary I
I had heard that this book is taught at Princeton by Tony Morrison, so I was a little concerned when I put it on our summer family reading list that it might be over the heads of my kids (and me, for that matter). It turns out, the prose is so simple, yet affecting, that everyone in my family read it with ease. But did they relate to it? Well, I can say for my part that the book brought back memories of my own brother's wedding the summer I was 15 (and no I didn't think I was going to change my name and go off with the newly weds). The combination of excitement about the wedding and unease about the unknown landscape after your first sibling gets married all bubbled up in an unexpected way. Additionally, the writing was so evocative of the south, I was glad to read it and happy to have my kids read it too. As for the kids, they wouldn't tell you they loved it, but you could tell, even through their unflattering descriptions of the story, that they understood it and related to it. They thought Frankie was weird, but they could describe her in such detail that I knew they were paying attention. This book has many layers to it; I'm confident that if they study it in high school or college, they will see it afresh; and I'm happy they've had a chance to be exposed to such a great example of modern literature.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Why I like Carson McCullers Writing
By Rodney Allen Roe
This story defies many of the rules of writing. There is one tension point in the story: what will happen when Frankie tries to go live with her brother and his new bride. In the writing between the introduction to this crazy notion and the resolution almost at the end we get too be in the mind of a 12 year old girl who struggles with many of the things pre-pubescent teens deal with. It is this journey, and the interplay between Berenice, the maid, Frankie and Frankie's cousin, John Henry, that is the book. Carson McCullers writes in a quirky style that constantly wrenches you awake as she uses an adjective to describe something that doesn't seem to fit at the same time letting you feel the sweltering heat and dusty streets of a small Southern town. This book was published in 1946, before the time of the civil rights movement and it is interesting, and maybe disturbing to some, that the way Frankie treats Berenice at one moment is like a confidant and the next as an arrogant mistress. This is a good read. Some might bemoan the lack of action. There are no axe murders, gory descriptions or car chases. If that's what you want look elsewhere.

Winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award: At the suggestion of her friend Tennessee Williams, Southern writer Carson McCullers adapted her novella *The Member of the Wedding* into a touching and poignant play that was an enormous success when it opened on Broadway in 1950, and has long since become a classic of the American theater. With compassion, veracity and wit, in *The Member of the Wedding* Carson McCullers depicts the intrinsically enmeshed lives of whites and blacks in the American South. Julie Harris became a star playing the awkward, twelve-year-old tomboy Frankie Adams, who falls deeply in love with her older brother and his fiance. Exhilarated by her naive conviction that being a member of their wedding means she will become what she calls the "we of me," Frankie is devastated when she learns she is not invited on the honeymoon. Bernice Sadie Brown, who has experienced a lifetime of love and loss, is a surrogate mother for Frankie. Portrayed on stage and in the film versions by the great Ethel Waters, Bernice is an epic character, fiercely loyal, down-to-earth, and centered by deep faith.

Each scene is alive with the small pungent details that turn myths back into lives. -- Margo Jefferson
If you have never seen the play or read it, set aside a few hours and meet some challenging characters. -- Echo, Ken Furtado
About the Author
One of America's most unforgettable literary figures, Carson McCullers (1917-1967) wrote with strength and compassion about life's outcasts, their need to belong and their often isolated and anguished lives in such novels as *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, *The Ballad of the Sad Caf*; and her plays, *The Member of the Wedding* and *The Square Root of Wonderful*.