

The Song of the Lark

Willa Cather

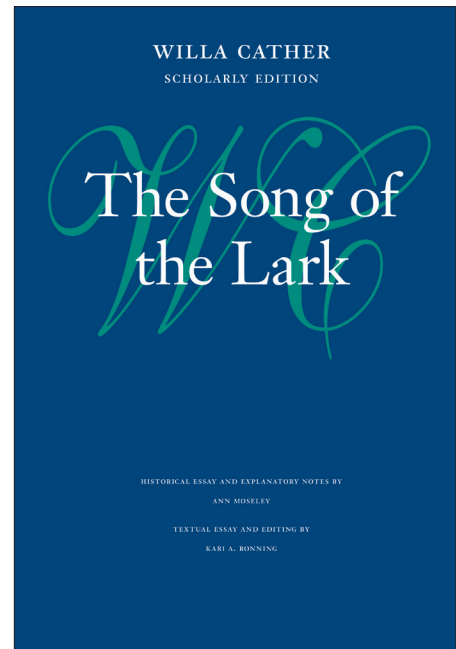
Historical Essay and Explanatory Notes by Ann Moseley
Textual Essay and Editing by Kari A. Ronning

Willa Cather's third novel, *The Song of the Lark*, depicts the growth of an artist, singer Thea Kronborg. In creating Thea's character, Cather was inspired by the Swedish-born immigrant and renowned Wagnerian soprano Olive Fremstad, although Thea's early life also has much in common with Cather's own.

Set from 1885 to 1909, the novel traces Thea's long journey from her fictional hometown of Moonstone, Colorado, to her source of inspiration in the Southwest, and to New York and the Metropolitan Opera House. As she makes her own way in the world from an unlikely background, Thea distills all her experiences and relationships into the power and passion of her singing, despite the cost. *The Song of the Lark* presents Cather's vision of a true artist.

The Willa Cather Scholarly Edition includes a historical essay providing fresh insight into the novel and Cather's writing process, photographs and maps, and explanatory notes providing a full range of biographical and historical information. The novel, edited according to standards set by the Committee on Scholarly Editions of the Modern Language Association, presents a clean, authoritative text of the first edition and charts the subsequent drastic revisions.

Ann Moseley is William L. Mayo Professor and Professor of Literature and Languages Emerita at Texas A&M University–Commerce. **Kari A. Ronning** is a research associate professor of English, textual editor of the Willa Cather Scholarly Edition series, and codirector of the Willa Cather Journalism project at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.



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