



Weeds

By Edith Summers Kelley

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First published in 1923, *Weeds* is set amid the tobacco tenant farms of rural Kentucky. This pioneering naturalist novel tells the story of a hard-working, spirited young woman who finds herself in a soul-destroying battle with the imprisoning duties of motherhood and of managing an impoverished household. The novel is particularly noteworthy for its heartbreaking depiction of a woman who suffers not from a lack of love, but from an unrequited longing for self-expression and freedom.

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Weeds By Edith Summers Kelley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1193764 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The Feminist Press at CUNY
- Published on: 1996-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.40" h x .70" w x 5.30" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 295 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Coming of age is a shock to almost anyone's system but imagine being like Kelley's character Judith Pippinger: spirited, creative, strong, yet facing nothing more fulfilling in life than the poverty and deprivation of a rural life. As with any lifetime, the human spirit provides moments of beauty, laughter and power-reserves upon which Judith must depend to survive a failing marriage, a disastrous love affair and the impending death of one of her daughters. The original manuscript contained a scene of rural childbirth deemed too graphic for readers and which was cut before publication. This complete edition includes that restored chapter.

From Publishers Weekly

this early feminist novel, about the restricted life of the wife of a tobacco farmer, was originally published in 1923.

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Review

"If there could be such a thing as a 21-gun salute for a novel fortuitously rescued from oblivion, *Weeds* richly merits it, for Edith Summers Kelley's book is unquestionably a major work of American fiction. . . . It is remarkable for its compassionate realism, its narrative pace, its sensitive evocation of character and for its sure literary craftsmanship. . . . [*Weeds*] is a book that will astonish and enrich anyone who reads it. And anyone should be everyone." —*New York Times Book Review*

"This beautiful novel, which saw its first publication in 1923, is the story of Judith Pippinger Blackford, a Kentucky farm girl whose bright, responsive, and perhaps talented nature is gradually dulled by the sordid limitation of her life. . . . It would be a pity for anyone to miss this statuesque book." —*New Yorker*

"Edith Kelley had much in common with Sherwood Anderson and her friend, Sinclair Lewis. Her novel is effective, poignant, well observed, distinguished of its kind. It should win a place in courses on modern literature and women's studies." —*Choice*

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