

# TWO DREISERS

THE MAN AND THE NOVELIST  
AS REVEALED IN HIS TWO  
MOST IMPORTANT WORKS,  
*SISTER CARRIE*

AND

*AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY*  
BY ELLEN MOERS

TWO  
DREISERS  
ELLEN MOERS  
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# Two Dreisers

**BM King**



## Two Dreisers:

*Two Dreisers* Ellen Moers, 1969

**Two Dreisers** Ellen Moers, 1969

**Sister Carrie** Theodore Dreiser, 1999-03-02

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time Theodore Dreiser is a man who with the passage of time is bound to loom larger and larger in the awakening aesthetic consciousness of America Among all of our prose writers he is one of the few men of whom it may be said that he has never been a trickster If there is a modern movement in American prose writing a movement toward greater courage and fidelity to life in writing Theodore Dreiser is the pioneer and the hero of the movement Sherwood Anderson Long before she was seduced by the cautious and ordinary man whose life she would unravel with no malice and only intermittent interest the young Carrie Meeber was seduced by the promise of the city its vitality and reckless possibility the thrill of material luxury and the spectacle of power and industry Banned on publication for its questionable morals *Sister Carrie* is the great American novel of seduction a masterpiece of insight into appetite and innocence Such a novel as *Sister Carrie* stands quite outside the brief traffic of the customary stage It leaves behind an inescapable impression of bigness of epic sweep and dignity It is not a mere story not a novel in the customary American meaning of the word it is at once a psalm of life and a criticism of life Dreiser's aim is not merely to tell a tale his aim is to show the vast ebb and flow of forces which sway and condition human destiny The thing he seeks to do is to stir to awaken to move One does not arise from such a book as *Sister Carrie* with a smirk of satisfaction one leaves it infinitely touched H L Mencken **two dreisers** ellen moers, 1969 **Two Dreisers**, 1994 **Evolution and "the Sex Problem"**

Bert Bender, 2004 A noteworthy investigation of the Darwinian element in American fiction from the realist through the Freudian eras theories of sexual selection and of the emotions are essential elements in American fiction from the late 1800s through the 1950s particularly during the Freudian era and the years surrounding the Scopes trial the Sex Problem and what resulted was a great diversity of American narratives aligned with either Darwinian or a number of anti Darwinian theories of evolution Included are intriguing discussions of works by Frank Norris Jack London Stephen Crane Theodore Dreiser Gertrude Stein Willa Cather Sherwood Anderson F Scott Fitzgerald five writers of the Harlem Renaissance John Steinbeck and Ernest Hemingway Among the ideas explored are Darwin's theory of common descent the question of man's place in nature the possibility of evolutionary progress the issues of heredity and eugenics the Darwinian basis of Freud's theory of sexual repression the quandary of male violence and the role of female choice in sexual selection the power of and the problems of racial and sexual selection the power of and the problems of racial and sexual difference and the ecological problems that arose directly from Darwin's theory of evolution America's major narratives of human life and love and will be appreciated by literary scholars and readers interested in Darwinism and culture *Theodore Dreiser: Sister Carrie, Jennie Gerhardt, Twelve Men (LOA #36)* Theodore Dreiser, 1987-06-15 Theodore Dreiser was arguably the most important figure in the development of fiction in the twentieth century In this Library of America volume are presented the first two novels and a

little known collection of biographical sketches by the man about whom H L Mencken said American writing before and after his time differed almost as much as biology before and after Darwin Dreiser grew up poor in a series of small Indiana towns in a large German Catholic family dominated by his father s religious fervor At seventeen he moved to Chicago and eventually became a newspaper reporter there and in St Louis Pittsburgh and New York Reaction to his first book Sister Carrie 1900 was not encouraging and after suffering a nervous breakdown he went on to a successful career editing magazines In 1910 he resumed writing and over the next fifteen years published fourteen volumes of fiction drama travel autobiography and essays Dreiser s first great novel Sister Carrie came to housebound and airless America like a great free Western wind and to our stuffy domesticity gave us the first fresh air since Mark Twain and Whitman Sinclair Lewis declared in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech in 1930 Carrie Meeber an eighteen year old small town girl drawn to bustling Chicago becomes the passionless mistress of a good humored traveling salesman and then of an infatuated saloon manager who leaves his family and elopes with her to New York Dreiser s brilliant panoramic rendering of the two cities fashionable theaters and restaurants luxurious hotels and houses of commerce alongside their unemployment labor violence homelessness degradation and despair makes this the first urban novel on a grand scale In a 1911 review H L Mencken wrote Jennie Gerhardt is the best American novel I have ever read with the lonesome but Himalayan exception of Huckleberry Finn Beautiful vital generous but morally naive and unconscious of social conventions Jennie is a working class woman who emerges superior to the succession of men who exploit her There are no villains in this novel in Dreiser s view everyone is victimized by the desires that the world excites but can never satisfy Dreiser s embracing compassion is felt in Twelve Men 1919 a collection of portraits of men he knew and admired They range from My Brother Paul Paul Dresser vaudeville musical comedian and composer of On the Banks of the Wabash and My Gal Sal to Culhane the Solid Man a sanatorium owner and former wrestler Without sentiment but with honest emotion and respect for the bleak and unvarnished truth Dreiser recalls these anomalous individuals and the twists of fate that shaped their lives 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 Cambridge Companion to Theodore Dreiser** Leonard Cassuto, Clare Virginia Eby, 2004-02-12 The specially commissioned essays collected in this volume establish new parameters for both scholarly and classroom discussion of Dreiser This Companion provides fresh perspectives on the frequently read classics Sister Carrie and An American Tragedy as well as on topics of perennial interest such as Dreiser s representation of the city and his prose style The volume investigates topics such as his representation of masculinity and femininity and his treatment of ethnicity It is the most comprehensive introduction to Dreiser s work

available     **After Eden** Conrad Eugene Ostwalt,1990 The transformation of the American sense of religious identity and destiny that occurred toward the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth is illustrated through a literary and cultural analysis of the fiction of Willa Cather and Theodore Dreiser     **A Theodore Dreiser Encyclopedia** Keith Newlin,2003-07-30 For a century Theodore Dreiser has represented for many readers a rebellious modernism whose novels both critiqued the American dream and embodied a bleakly deterministic perception of life His first novel *Sister Carrie* 1900 was reluctantly published and then ignored by its publisher who thought the book immoral Another publisher withdrew his fifth novel *The Genius* 1915 rather than face prosecution on obscenity charges Dreiser did not enjoy widespread popularity and critical acclaim until his masterpiece *An American Tragedy* appeared in 1925 This reference is an authoritative guide to his life and works Included are several hundred entries on each of Dreiser s books and short stories as well as magazine and newspaper pieces he collected during his life Noteworthy uncollected and posthumously collected works are given separate entries as are major characters in the novels family members friends and other persons important to understanding his writings There are also entries on Dreiser s publishers his major influences the places and events important to his life and the literary and social contexts of his works Expert contributors wrote each of the entries many of which cite works for further reading The volume closes with a selected bibliography of works by and about Dreiser     **The Midwestern Ascendancy in American Writing** Ronald Weber,1992 For a half century from Edward Eggleston s pioneering novel *The Hoosier Schoolmaster* in 1871 through the dazzling early work of Hart Crane F Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway in the 1920s Midwestern literature was at the center of American writing In *The Midwestern Ascendancy in American Writing* Ronald Weber illuminates the sense of lost promise that gives rise to the elegiac note struck in many Midwestern works he also addresses the deeply divided feelings about the region revealed in the contrary desires to abandon and to celebrate The period of Midwestern cultural ascendancy was a time of tremendous social and technological change Midwestern writing was a reflection of these societal changes it was American literature     **Dreiser-Mencken Letters, Volume 2** Theodore Dreiser,H.L. Mencken,2016-11-11 This book is a volume in the Penn Press Anniversary Collection To mark its 125th anniversary in 2015 the University of Pennsylvania Press rereleased more than 1 100 titles from Penn Press s distinguished backlist from 1899 1999 that had fallen out of print Spanning an entire century the Anniversary Collection offers peer reviewed scholarship in a wide range of subject areas     ***Theodore Dreiser's An American Tragedy*** Harold Bloom,1988 A collection of eight critical essays on Dreiser s novel arranged in chronological order of their original publication     **The Bookman** ,1927     **The New Republic** Herbert David Croly,1916     **Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Volume 1** Philip A. Greasley,2001-05-30 The *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature Volume One* surveys the lives and writings of nearly 400 Midwestern authors and identifies some of the most important criticism of their writings The *Dictionary* is based on the belief that the literature of any region simultaneously captures the experience and influences the

worldview of its people reflecting as well as shaping the evolving sense of individual and collective identity meaning and values Volume One presents individual lives and literary orientations and offers a broad survey of the Midwestern experience as expressed by its many diverse peoples over time Philip A Greasley s introduction fills in background information and describes the philosophy focus methodology content and layout of entries as well as criteria for their inclusion An extended lead essay The Origins and Development of the Literature of the Midwest by David D Anderson provides a historical cultural and literary context in which the lives and writings of individual authors can be considered This volume is the first of an ambitious three volume series sponsored by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature and created by its members Volume Two will provide similar coverage of non author entries such as sites centers movements influences themes and genres Volume Three will be a literary history of the Midwest One goal of the series is to build understanding of the nature importance and influence of Midwestern writers and literature Another is to provide information on writers from the early years of the Midwestern experience as well as those now emerging who are typically absent from existing reference works

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