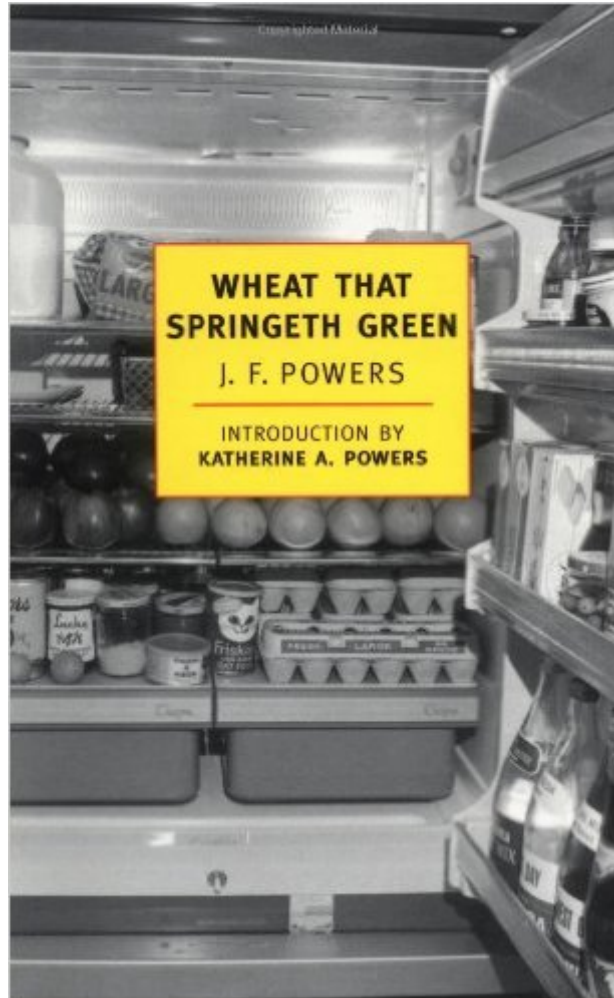


The book was found

Wheat That Springeth Green (New York Review Books Classics)



Synopsis

Wheat That Springeth Green, J. F. Powers's beautifully realized final work, is a comic foray into the commercialized wilderness of modern American life. Its hero, Joe Hackett, is a high school track star who sets out to be a saint. But seminary life and priestly apprenticeship soon damp his ardor, and by the time he has been given a parish of his own he has traded in his hair shirt for the consolations of baseball and beer. Meanwhile Joe's higher-ups are pressing for an increase in profits from the collection plate, suburban Inglenook's biggest business wants to launch its new line of missiles with a blessing, and not all that far away, in Vietnam, a war is going on. Joe wants to duck and cover, but in the end, almost in spite of himself, he is condemned to do something right. J. F. Powers was a virtuoso of the American language with a perfect ear for the telling cliché and an unfailing eye for the kitsch that clutters up our lives. This funny and very moving novel about the making and remaking of a priest is one of his finest achievements.

Book Information

Series: New York Review Books Classics

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: NYRB Classics; New Ed edition (May 31, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0940322242

ISBN-13: 978-0940322240

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #701,021 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories #3870 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Satire #6242 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism

Customer Reviews

The best of the series of books published by The New York Review of Books are all the works of J.F. Powers, who died in 1989. Powers' novels and stories are almost entirely concerned with Catholic clerical life in the midwest. I hadn't read his last novel, *Wheat That Springeth Green*, and I was happy to find that the new edition contained an introduction by the author's daughter, Katherine Powers. *Wheat That Springeth Green* is every bit as fine as *Morte D'Urban*, his first and only other

novel written some 25 years earlier, and a National Book Award winner as well. In its treatment of character and plot the latter novel is theologically perhaps even more complex. Joe's character is cast from the first pages: as a toddler he gets attention from his parents' friends merely for declaiming at a party "I go to church!" We also learn of his parents' antipathy towards the parish priest's intoning on the subject of the "Dollar-a-Sunday Club," an attitude that Joe will inherit, and which becomes a theme that will be played out in a number of surprising ways. We also sense something of his aloofness in these first chapters as well. He doesn't keep up with many friends, but he does seem to know the value in keeping up appearances: "Joe just smiled at Frances and everybody, so they couldn't tell how he really felt about being in the sack race..." Joe is a good athlete, even in grade school, and the race he really wants, but doesn't get, is the sprint. Much of the story revolves around Joe's relation to money, so that even an early adventure (described in nearly pornographic detail) involving his first adult relations with women is later understood to be subsumed by his larger pecuniary obsessions.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Wheat that Springeth Green (New York Review Books Classics) Wheat Belly: Top Slow Cooker Recipes: 230+ Grain & Gluten-Free Slow Cooker Recipes for Rapid Weight Loss with The Revolutionary Wheat Belly Diet (The Wheat-Free Cookbook) Wheat Belly Diet For Beginners: Grain-Free, Wheat-Free, Gluten-Free Cookbooks and Recipes For Weight Loss Plans and Solutions Included! (Wheat Free Grain Free Gluten Free Weight Loss Diet) (Volume 1) Wheat Belly: Wheat Belly Slow Cooker: 30 Delicious Grain-Free Slow Cooker Recipes for Beginners Wheat Belly 30-Minute (Or Less!) Cookbook: 200 Quick and Simple Recipes to Lose the Wheat, Lose the Weight, and Find Your Path Back to Health The Everything Wheat-Free Diet Cookbook: Simple, Healthy Recipes for Your Wheat-Free Lifestyle Wheat Belly: Lose the Wheat, Lose the Weight, and Find Your Path Back to Health Seats: New York: 180 Seating Plans to New York Metro Area Theatres Third Edition (Seats New York) LEED GA MOCK EXAMS (LEED v4): Questions, Answers, and Explanations: A Must-Have for the LEED Green Associate Exam, Green Building LEED Certification, ... Green Associate Exam Guide Series (Volume 2) LEED v4 Green Associate Exam Guide (LEED GA): Comprehensive Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building LEED Certification, and Sustainability (Green Associate Exam Guide Series) (Volume 1) Really the Blues (New York Review Books Classics) Memories: From Moscow to the Black Sea (New York Review Books Classics) The Goshawk (New York Review Books Classics) The One-Straw Revolution: An Introduction to Natural Farming (New York Review Books Classics) The Stray Dog Cabaret: A Book of Russian Poems (New York Review Books Classics) American Humor: A Study of the National

Character (New York Review Books Classics) A Journey Round My Skull (New York Review Books Classics) Notes on the Cinematograph (New York Review Books Classics) The Stories of J.F. Powers (New York Review Books Classics) The Peregrine (New York Review Books Classics)

[Dmca](#)