



Green Wheat: A Novel

Colette

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Written in 1923, *Green Wheat* is set in a villa in Brittany and is a story of burgeoning sexuality. This edition does more than meet Rogow's mark "to do justice to Colette's enormous talent," it presents a great classic to the world once again.

From the Translator's Preface:

Of her more than twenty books, *Green Wheat* is perhaps Colette's most polished, most perfect. It was in *Green Wheat* that she achieved an exquisite blend of two of her greatest gifts as a fiction writer—her uncanny ability to fathom the hearts of adolescents, and her skill at describing nature with the phrasing of a poet and the colors and light of a great landscape painter. This combination helps make *Green Wheat* one of the enduring works of fiction of the last 100 years. . . . Ultimately, the book is a story about the loss of Eden, both of youth and of nature. . . . It is about the loss of a type of hope, a hope that many of us cling to, that love can somehow escape the imperfections of life.

Zack Rogow translates French literature and was a co-winner of the PEN/Book-of-the-Month Club Translation Award for *Earthlight*, by André Breton, as well as winner of a Bay Area Book Reviewers Award (BABRA) for his translation of George Sand's novel, *Horace*. He is the editor of a new anthology of U.S. poetry, *The Face of Poetry*, to be published by University of California Press in 2004. He teaches in the M.F.A. in Writing Program at the California College of Arts & Crafts and lives in San Francisco.

Colette, whose real name was Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, was born in the village of Saint-Sauveur-en-Puisaye in Burgundy, France in 1873 and died in Paris in 1954. Her many books include *Gigi* (1944), *The Vagabond* (1912), *Cheri* (1929), and *The Last of Cheri* (1932). She is considered one of the great novelists of the 20th century. Among her many awards, Colette was made a member of the Belgian Royal Academy in the 1930s and was also the first woman to be admitted to the prestigious Goncourt Academy. In 1953 she became a grand officer of the Legion of Honour. She is a legendary figure who lived a colorful and bohemian life and her writings are rich with the joys and pain

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Lela Koehn:

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