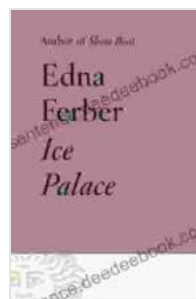


The Ice Palace: Edna Ferber's Epic Tale of a Woman's Ambition and the Rise of the Midwest

Edna Ferber's 1927 novel *The Ice Palace* is an epic tale of a woman's ambition and the rise of the Midwest. The novel follows the life of Caroline Gardner, a young woman who leaves her small town in Wisconsin to seek her fortune in Chicago. Caroline is a determined and ambitious woman, and she quickly rises to the top of the business world. However, her success comes at a price. She sacrifices her personal relationships and her own happiness in order to achieve her goals.



Ice Palace by Edna Ferber

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2949 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 351 pages



Plot Summary

Caroline Gardner is born in the small town of Winnebago, Wisconsin. Her father is a storekeeper and her mother is a homemaker. Caroline is a bright and ambitious girl, and she dreams of a better life for herself. When she is 18 years old, she leaves Winnebago and moves to Chicago. She gets a job

as a secretary, and she quickly rises through the ranks. Within a few years, she is the head of her own company.

Caroline's success is not without its sacrifices. She works long hours and she is constantly under pressure. She also has to deal with the sexism and prejudice of her male colleagues. However, Caroline is determined to succeed, and she refuses to let anything stand in her way.

As Caroline's career progresses, she begins to lose touch with her roots. She becomes more and more materialistic, and she forgets the values that she was raised with. She also loses touch with her family and friends. Caroline becomes a lonely and isolated woman, and she realizes that she has sacrificed her own happiness in order to achieve her goals.

Characters

- **Caroline Gardner** is the protagonist of the novel. She is a determined and ambitious woman who leaves her small town to seek her fortune in Chicago. Caroline is successful in her career, but she sacrifices her personal relationships and her own happiness in order to achieve her goals.
- **Barney Glasgow** is Caroline's love interest. He is a handsome and charming man, but he is also a gambler and a womanizer. Caroline falls in love with Barney, but their relationship is doomed from the start.
- **Caleb Gardner** is Caroline's father. He is a kind and loving man, but he is also a weak and ineffectual father. Caleb is unable to provide for his family, and he is constantly overshadowed by his wife.
- **Sarah Gardner** is Caroline's mother. She is a strong and determined woman, but she is also a bitter and resentful woman. Sarah resents

her husband for his inability to provide for the family, and she takes out her resentment on her daughter.

Themes

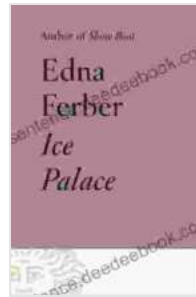
The Ice Palace explores several themes, including:

- **The American Dream:** Caroline Gardner is a classic example of the American Dream. She leaves her small town to seek her fortune in the big city, and she succeeds beyond her wildest dreams. However, Caroline's success comes at a price. She sacrifices her personal relationships and her own happiness in order to achieve her goals.
- **The Rise of the Midwest:** *The Ice Palace* is set in the Midwest during the early 20th century. The novel depicts the rise of the Midwest as a major economic and cultural center. Caroline Gardner's success is a symbol of the Midwest's growing power and influence.
- **The Role of Women:** *The Ice Palace* is a feminist novel. The novel explores the role of women in society and the challenges that women face in the workplace. Caroline Gardner is a strong and independent woman, but she also faces sexism and prejudice from her male colleagues.

Critical Reception

The Ice Palace was a critical and commercial success. The novel was praised for its strong characters, its vivid setting, and its exploration of important social issues. *The Ice Palace* has been adapted into several films and television shows, and it remains a popular novel today.

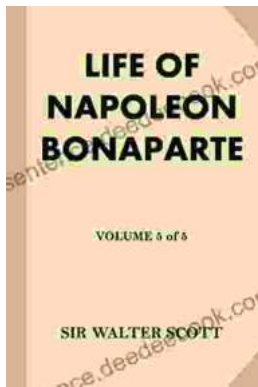
The Ice Palace is a classic American novel that explores the American Dream, the rise of the Midwest, and the role of women in society. The novel is a powerful and moving story that will stay with readers long after they finish it.



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