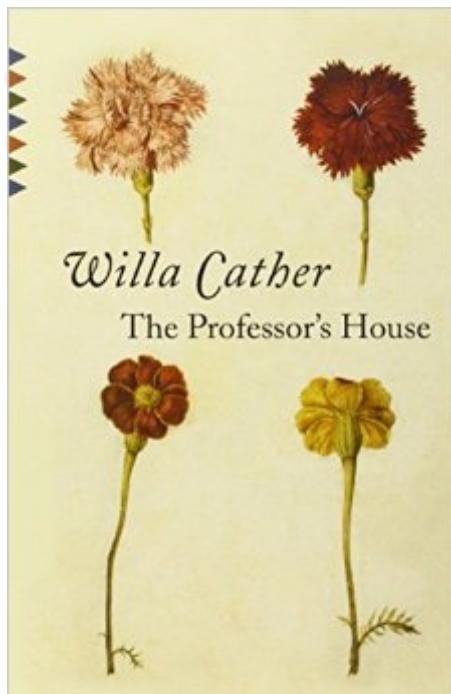


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# The Professor's House (Vintage Classics)



## **Synopsis**

A study in emotional dislocation and renewal--Professor Godfrey St. Peter, a man in his 50's, has achieved what would seem to be remarkable success. When called on to move to a more comfortable home, something in him rebels.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 258 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (82 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #46,662 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Classics #1582 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics #2139 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary

## **Customer Reviews**

Willa Cather's early novels of life on the American prairie, such as "My Antonia" and "O Pioneers" are well known. Her novel "The Professor's House" is much less familiar, but it is Cather at her best. The book tells the story of Professor Godfrey St. Peter. When we meet St. Peter, he is a respected academic and scholar, age 52, who has written an eight volume history called "Spanish Explorers" dealing with the Spanish in Mexico and the American Southwest. He has persevered in his writing and received awards. As a result, St. Peter and his family are able to build a new house and move away from the ramshakle rented quarters in which the Professor and his wife have lived and raised their family. The family consists of two daughters who, when we meet them, have married and gone their own ways. The younger daughter is married to a struggling news reporter who has impressed his bosses by his ability to turn out hack prose-poems for the paper on a daily basis. The older daughter was at one time engaged to a man named Tom Outland who is, perhaps the real hero of the book. Outland invented an important scientific device and willed it to her upon his death in WW I. She then marries an engineer and entrepreneur who develops and markets Outland's invention. The couple build a large home and name it "Outland". The book tells a story of change, frustration and acceptance. The Professor is unhappy with the new home and refuses to leave his

old study. His relationship with his wife and daughters has cooled. He is unhappy with the modernization of the university and of academic learning with its emphasis on technology and business rather than study and reflection. Most importantly, he is dissatisfied with his honors, his leisure, and his comforts.

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