

(Free download) Turn, Magic Wheel

## Turn, Magic Wheel

*Dawn Powell*

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**Dawn Powell : Turn, Magic Wheel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Turn, Magic Wheel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Something For Everyone--AlmostBy jean chases Dawn Powell was new to me. Never heard of her until recently. That said, she writes very well, very stylishly and ultimately with emotion, although that comes later on in the book. She seems to be a modern writer living in a world more modern in some ways than I would have thought 1936 to be. Her main characters are almost exempt from her satire ( which is not

crazily broad)--- that is Dennis and Effie. A lot of what passes as satire could be actual life in a hardscrabble NYC. Great descriptions of nightlife, city sounds, the common people striving to get ahead. And, a love story thrown into the mix of gladhanding, parties, drinking!! Through it all, we feel that we are there with Ms. Powell and her characters. Some surprises at the end of this novel. Some changes in her protagonists that unexpectedly ring true and give added depth to the story. 4 1/2 stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Dense read, but well worth it! By Karin This is my first time reading Dawn Powell. It was suggested I read her because I like Edith Wharton. At first I wasn't quite sure about the book. It seemed very dense and wordy, with very little action. A lot of what happens is inside each character's head. However, I stuck with it, and I am so glad I did! The deep character development led to a very touching story about friendship, love and betrayal. The kind of story that makes you wonder how you would act if you were in that person's place. I recommend it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Read By Customer A wonderful book. So glad to have discovered Dawn Powell.

Dennis Orphen, in writing a novel, has stolen the life story of his friend, Effie Callingham, the former wife of a famous, Hemingway-like novelist, Andrew Callingham. Orphen's betrayal is not the only one, nor the worst one, in this hilarious satire of the New York literary scene. (Powell personally considered this to be her best New York novel.) Powell takes revenge here on all publishers, and her baffoonish MacTweed is a comic invention worthy of Dickens. And as always in Powell's New York novels, the city itself becomes a central character: "On the glittering black pavement legs hurried by with umbrella tops, taxis skidded along the curb, their wheels swishing through the puddles, raindrops bounced like dice in the gutter." Powell's famous wit was never sharper than here, but *Turn, Magic Wheel* is also one of the most poignant and heart-wrenching of her novels.

"A gleaming, brittle and slightly brutal New York novel . . . each chapter slips us into the consciousness and conversations of a group of New Yorkers and keeps them afloat on the sounds and sensations, the dash, squalor and ugly beauty of the city." – Margo Jefferson, *The New York Times* (1994) "Give us your lonely, your misunderstood, your sexually malcontent, your stubborn provincial dreams: responding to this siren call, Dawn Powell stayed loyal to New York with an ardor beside which that of celebrants like Scott Fitzgerald and E. B. White appear fickle." – John Updike, *The New Yorker* (1995) From the Inside Flap Dennis Orphen, in writing a novel, has stolen the life story of his friend, Effie Callingham, the former wife of a famous, Hemingway-like novelist, Andrew Callingham. Orphen's betrayal is not the only one, nor the worst one, in this hilarious satire of the New York literary scene. (Powell personally considered this to be her best New York novel.) Powell takes revenge here on all publishers, and her baffoonish MacTweed is a comic invention worthy of Dickens. And as always in Powell's New York novels, the city itself becomes a central character: "On the glittering black pavement legs hurried by with umbrella tops, taxis skidded along the curb, their wheels swishing through the puddles, raindrops bounced like dice in the gutter." Powell's famous wit was never sharper than here, but *Turn, Magic Wheel* is also one of the most poignant and heart-wrenching of her novels. About the Author When Dawn Powell died in 1965, virtually all her books were out of print. Not a single historical survey of American literature mentioned her, even in passing. And so she slept, seemingly destined to be forgotten – or, to put it more exactly, never to be remembered. How things have changed! Numerous novels by Dawn Powell are currently available, along with her diaries and short stories. She has joined the Library of America, admitted to the illustrious company of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Adams, Frederick Douglass, and Edith Wharton. She is taught in college and read with delight on vacation. For the contemporary poet and novelist Lisa Zeidner, writing in *The New York Times Book Review*, Powell "is wittier than Dorothy Parker, dissects the rich better than F. Scott Fitzgerald, is more plaintive than Willa Cather in her evocation of the heartland, and has a more supple control of satirical voice than Evelyn Waugh." For his part, Gore Vidal offered a simple reason for Powell's sudden popularity in the early Twentieth Century: "We are catching up to her." Dawn Powell was born in Mt. Gilead, Ohio, on November 28, 1896, the second of three daughters. Her father was a traveling salesman, and her mother died a few days after Dawn turned seven. After enduring great cruelty at the hands of her stepmother, Dawn ran away at the age of thirteen and eventually arrived at the home of her maternal aunt, who served hot meals to travelers emerging from the train station across the street. Dawn worked her way through college and made it to New York. There she married a young advertising executive and had one child, a boy who suffered from autism, then an unknown condition. Powell referred to herself as a "permanent visitor" in her adopted Manhattan and brought to her writing a perspective gained from her upbringing in Middle America. She knew many of the great writers of her time, and Diana Trilling famously said it was Dawn "who really says the funny things for which Dorothy Parker gets credit." Ernest Hemingway called her his "favorite living writer." She was one of America's great novelists, and yet when she died in 1965 she was buried in an unmarked grave in New York's Potter's Field.