



Ship of Fools: A Novel

Katherine Anne Porter

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Katherine Anne Porter's first and only novel is a masterful allegory of the passions and prejudices that sparked World War II


August 1931. An ocean liner bound for Germany sets out from the Mexican port city of Veracruz. The ship's first-class passengers include an idealistic young American painter and her lover; a Spanish dance troupe with a sideline in larceny; an elderly German couple and their fat, seasick bulldog; and a boisterous band of Cuban medical students.

As the *Vera* journeys across the Atlantic, the incidents and intrigues of several dozen passengers and crew members come into razor-sharp focus. The result is a richly drawn portrait of the human condition in all its complexity and a mesmerizing snapshot of a world drifting toward disaster.

Written over a span of twenty years and based on the diary Katherine Anne Porter kept during a similar ocean voyage, *Ship of Fools* was the bestselling novel of 1962 and the inspiration for an Academy Award-winning film starring Vivien Leigh. It is a masterpiece of American literature as captivating today as when it was first published more than a half century ago.

This ebook features an illustrated biography of Katherine Anne Porter, including rare photos from the University of Maryland Libraries.

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