The present work is an attempt to study the major thematic concerns of Willa Cather, chiefly in her novels, but with supplementary evidence from the short fiction as well. The method chosen for the study is critical and discursive and the emphasis in each case is on the content of Willa Cather's fiction, which without any experimental daring, continues to live mainly on account of its thematic relevance and variety.

It would be useless to deny that Willa Cather is no longer a fashionable author. Nevertheless, her fiction gives an imaginative and often inspired record of the period of history she covers and its excitement and drama gives to her work an all time freshness. It is the modest endeavour of this work to highlight those features of her writing which to a large part make her fame live, and also to trace the note of hope in her fiction.