



Katherine Anne Porter

May 15, 1890 - September 18, 1980

Silver Spring, Maryland

Katherine Anne Porter - born Callie Russell Porter - American short-story writer and novelist whose precision of sentence made her one of the twentieth century's most exacting prose stylists, died in Silver Spring, Maryland, on September 18, 1980. She was ninety. Born May 15, 1890, in Indian Creek, Texas, she reinvented herself as a literary professional after early marriages, journalism, and travel through Mexico and Europe - a life that fed stories of betrayal, revolution, and the stubborn mystery of character.

Flowering Judas, Pale Horse, Pale Rider, and the Collected Stories that won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award in 1966 showed how a "long short story" could carry novelistic weight without wasting a syllable. Ship of Fools (1962), her only novel and a bestseller, staged a prewar Atlantic crossing as moral allegory; critics preferred the stories, and history has largely agreed. She wrote slowly, revised fiercely, and refused the comfort of soft endings.

In later years she lived as a public literary elder - interviews, readings, the Texas childhood remade into art - while protecting the privacy that craft requires. Silver Spring was a quieter last address than the myth of the wandering Southern modernist suggested.

She died there on September 18, 1980. The stories remain assigned, debated, and feared by apprentices who learn how much can fit in twenty pages.

Porter's gift was moral clarity without sermon - characters seen whole, sentences that refuse to blink. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 18 remembers the Texas-born master of the American short story.

Services

Died in Silver Spring, Maryland, September 18, 1980. American short-story writer and novelist; Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for *The Collected Stories* (1966); author of *Ship of Fools*.

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