



Winesburg, Ohio

Sherwood Anderson (1876 - 1941)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	7 hours 16 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1046
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936400
Style:	Collaborative	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Short Fiction		

Winesburg, Ohio, a collection of short stories, most written between 1915 and 1916, with a few others written closer to publication in 1919 is an exacting look at and dissection of life in a fictional small town in Ohio. Each story presents George Willard, a protagonist who grows in age and wisdom throughout the short story cycle. Not unlike the feelings attendant to the waves of modernism percolating in Paris and filtering back to the states, the themes invariably deal with Willard's isolation, inability to communicate, alienation from present surroundings and the need and desire to break the bonds of small town conventions, to move away, to engage the world that was then known to be vast, new and no longer inaccessible. It is accepted that

Winesburg, the fictional town, is based on Anderson's hometown, Clyde, Ohio. In the book's composition Anderson became a loyal and meaningful correspondent with Gertrude Stein, who was living in Paris. Stein is credited not with forcing her style on Anderson, but with freeing him to find his authentic voice and style. Anderson is also known for his kind mentoring of the young and callow William Faulkner when both lived for a time New Orleans, a kindness that Faulkner failed to acknowledge or repay. *(Summary by Michael Hogan)*

Sherwood Anderson (September 13, 1876 – March 8, 1941) was born in Camden, Ohio in 1876. Soon after—and under a cloud—his father summarily moved the family to Caledonia and then on to Clyde, Ohio, in 1884, the purported site for the fictional town of Winesburg, Ohio. In his early years Anderson struggled with life at home as his father, a Union veteran and once promising businessman, spiraled downward to freelance work as a sign painter and unemployed alcoholic. Anderson worked to help support his family and capitalized on his innate gifts as a salesman. Later this talent would see him to success in the fields of advertising and copywriting. His white collar career took its toll, however, and after moves to Chicago, Cleveland and Elyria, Ohio, he suffered a nervous breakdown that has become the signifier in Anderson mythology. Was it truly a breakdown brought on by overwork and alienation from the artist within, or was it a voluntary display of insanity to ease his way out of one career and into another? Anderson wrote and published three works between 1915 and 1919, the third being *Winesburg, Ohio*, which brought him some fame and status. He continued to write novels, stories, poems, and essays for the rest of his adult life. He married three times, and generously assisted both Hemingway and Faulkner in their first attempts to be published. Anderson died in 1941 in Colon, Panama, during a cruise to South America. The autopsy noted gastrointestinal damage due to Anderson's inadvertent ingestion of a toothpick that had been placed in the olive of a martini or hors d'ourves.