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This is Adam: a novel (Lightwood History Collection) (Volume 4)

Brainard Cheney

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"I have just finished your novel [THIS IS ADAM] and I certainly do like it. It's a real accomplishment."

Flannery O'Connor, in a letter to Brainard Cheney (1958)

"In Cheney's THIS IS ADAM, the reader is rewarded by a picture, a vision, of contemporary life which he will find in the work of no other contemporary novelist."

Caroline Gordon, author and literary scholar (1958)

1910. The piney woods of south Georgia. Adam Atwell, a black man, struggles to save the widow Lucy Hightower and her family from financial ruin. As the family's overseer, his business partnership pits him against bankers and speculators out to steal the Hightower land. Adam faces the specter of Jim Crow, even murder, in his quest to save Lucy's legacy to her children.

In turn, Lucy Hightower wrestles with her desire to return to her family and an old sweetheart in Charleston or remain in the Georgia hinterlands raising her three children alone.

Brainard Cheney (1900-1989) published four novels in his lifetime, all set in the south Georgia land of his youth. He later attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville and became part of the 1920s and 1930s literary scene, a friend of Robert Penn Warren, Caroline Gordon, Allen Tate and Flannery O'Connor. Many consider THIS IS ADAM his most fully-realized work.

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