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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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NOVELS ABOUT WEATHER

Weather forms part of the setting of many novels but is rarely made the central theme of one. An example of what may be done in this direction is found in the four-volume story "The Peasants", by the Polish novelist and Nobel prize winner Wladyslaw Reymont. Weather is the controlling force of this wonderful tale -- its hero and also its villain. Rupert Hughes, in a review of the work, says:

"There is nothing on earth so incessantly dramatic as the weather. No wonder it is the eternal topic that it is. Everybody jokes wearily about the weary jokes about the weather, but our souls and bodies are never free of dependence upon it. Climate makes history and society what they are. Yet, so far as I know, nobody ever made the weather the protagonist of a great drama until the Polish genius Reymont came along with his prose epic in four parts, named after the four seasons, and combined into a tetralogy called 'The Peasants.'"

Another striking example of a novel with a meteorological theme is Dorothy Scarborough's story "The Wind", which chronicles the havoc wrought on a sensitive woman's soul by the winds of Texas.

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