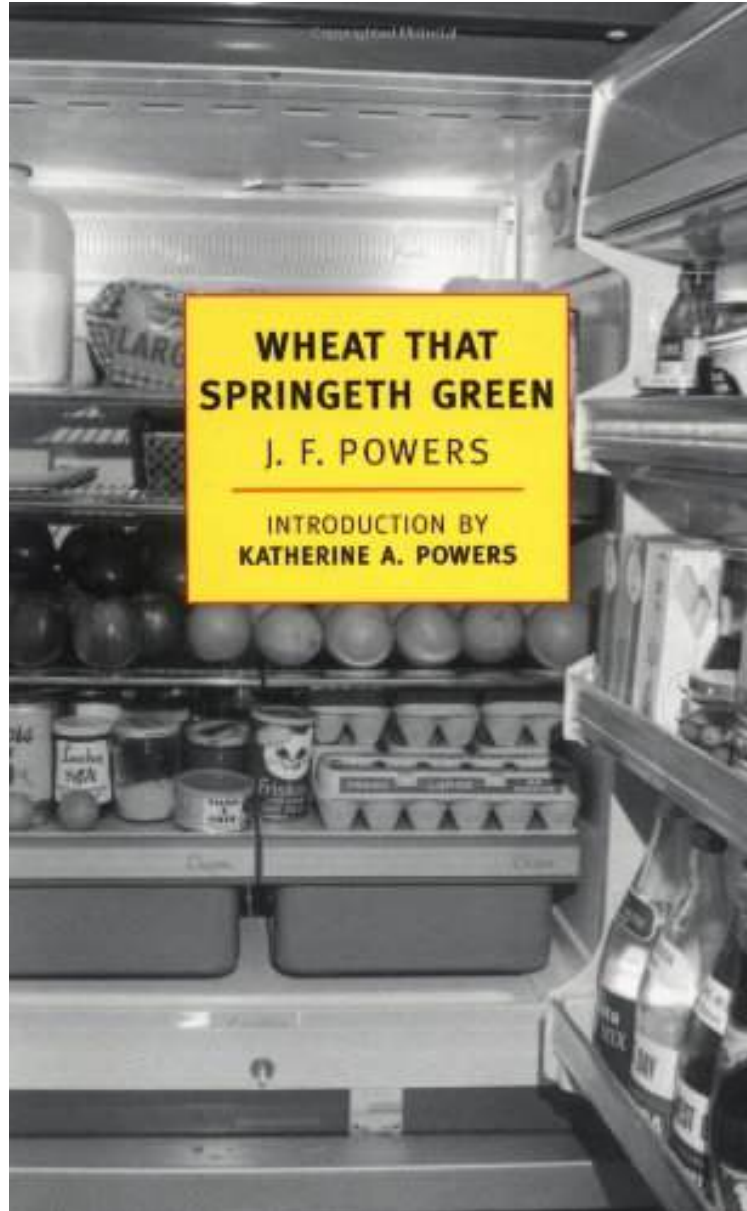


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Wheat that Springeth Green (New York Review Books Classics)

By *J.F. Powers*

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2 of 2 review helpful Wonderful By J Smallridge This book accurately captures the intersection between American faith and American life as well as anything I ve read since Edwin O Connor s Edge of Sadness Powers writes with a realism that makes all aspects of a parish world come alive In particular I like how he advised the young man seeking guidance about whether to participate in the Vietnam War What impressed Wheat That Springeth Green J F Powers s beautifully realized final work is a comic foray into the commercialized wilderness of modern American life Its hero Joe Hackett is a high school track star who sets out to be a saint But seminary life and priestly apprenticeship soon damp his ardor and by the time he has been given a parish of his own he has traded in his hair shirt for the consolations of baseball and beer Meanwhile Joe s higher ups are pressing com During his famous journey through America in 1831 Alexis de Tocqueville was struck by the peculiar worldliness of religious practice Unlike their European counterparts who specialized in visions of heaven American preachers are constantly referrin

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