

WILLA CATHER REFUSES TO SELL OUT TO HOLLYWOOD

Willa Cather

(1876-1947)

"The book [*A Lost Lady*] sold well and became the only one of Willa's books to be made into a motion picture. She was so distressed with the 1925 Warner Brothers silent film, however, that she expressly forbade her publishers to sell movie rights to any of her other books or stories and she saw to it that the prohibition was written into her will."

Phyllis C. Robinson

Willa: The Life of Willa Cather

(Holt 1983) 239

"Most independents go bankrupt, Sarah. I don't want to lose everything we've worked so hard for."

"You said it just takes one boffo picture."

"First you have to find a story."

Sarah fell silent for awhile, the heat shimmers in the desert ahead turning into chimeras. "I was tempted to approach Selznick about doing a Willa Cather novel."

"I couldn't work for Selznick."

"Doesn't he do faithful adaptations?"

Ryan laughed derisively.

"Selznick brings you Cather. He'd call it *Gone with the West* and burn down Los Angeles. He'd cast his dark girlfriend as the Scandinavian heroine. Don't leave me, Lars!"

"I was thinking of Ingrid Bergman."

"I'd love to do a Cather novel, but she's not selling."

The road ahead ran straight and flat through a desert evoking pioneers in wagons struggling ahead on faith."

Michael Hollister

from *Follywood* (2005) 111