

BERTRAM COPE'S YEAR

HENRY B. FULLER

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Read by James K. White

Henry Blake Fuller

Bertram Cope's Year

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By Henry Blake Fuller (1857–1929)

This novel was perhaps the most daring and affirmative LGBT literature of the first two decades of the 20th century in America. In this story, Bertram Cope is a young college instructor, about twenty-four years old ("certainly not a day over twenty-five"), who is pursued by men and women, both younger and older than himself. In writing this novel, Fuller had to carefully craft his plot schemes so as not to offend the sensibilities of publishers. As a result, today's reader is left somewhat, but not entirely, confused about the precise feelings that characters develop for one another by the end of the book. Nevertheless, no publishing house would touch it, which ultimately required that Fuller go the self-publishing route.

Bertram Cope's Year was the first novel by an established American writer that dealt exclusively with the subject of homosexuality. Although it did not achieve the notoriety it deserved at the time, it set the tone for the increasingly open discussion of gay themes in literary form. (Introduction by James K. White)

Total running time: 08:48:50; read by James K. White. Dedicated Proof-Listener: Betty M. Meta-Coordinator & Cataloging: Diana Majlinger.

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