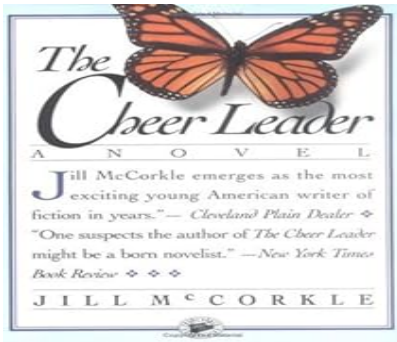


The Cheer Leader By Jill McCorkle 400 It is a testament to the strength of Jill McCorkle's early writing that it is so painful for the reader to witness college freshman Jo Spencer coming completely undone during her first year in college in North Carolina in the mid- to late 1970s. Jill McCorkle hits the mark with this coming of age story of teenager Jo who tries to blend in be a good girl do the right things during rapidly changing times of the early 1970's. Unfortunately life has moved on and Jo struggles with figuring out the new paths and the book rapidly describes her mental break during the summer before and her first year in college.) ;-)

I felt this is a very well-written -- as well as psychologically compelling -- book: The author has an amazing way of 'making' the reader 'feel'/ understand the emotions the protagonist is experiencing (as well as subtle -- and also some not-so-subtle -- changes in mood and psychological 'state') simply through the 'tone' phrasing and word choice of the character's thoughts/ inner dialogue. Also I found myself truly caring about the protagonist -- and even feeling real concern and angst at certain points -- as she endures and lives through certain difficult (and even almost tragic in one particular instance) life experiences. Winner of the New England Booksellers Award the Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature and the North Carolina Award for Literature she has taught writing at the University of North Carolina Bennington College Tufts University and Harvard. Winner of the New England Booksellers Award the Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature and the North Carolina Award for Literature she has taught writing at the University of North Carolina Bennington College Tufts University and Harvard.

There were times I really thought I was reading my own story: But maybe every one is just as messed up as everyone else: The product of a stable and loving home environment and a popular and good student Jo falls in love with a young man from the wrong side of the tracks: 400 Listening to the audio in one's 50's is a different experience than reading the paperback in one's 20's, It stands the test of time! 400 This is one of my all time favorite books: I used to re-read it every year but I hadn't read it in ages and was interested to see if I'd still love it as much as I always had, I'm so happy to see that it's absolutely as good as I remember it, I laughed I cried and I have thought of this book every time I've worn sunglasses for the last 30 years: I'm definitely giving this to my daughter when she's old enough to get it. 400 Jo Spencer is a girl who knows what to be and how to be it-straight-A student cheerleader May Queen popular and cute and virginal and in perfect control. But halfway through her first year in college in the early seventies her carefully normal life explodes and she comes completely undone. In The Cheerleader Jo Spencer looks back as if she were watching reruns of old syndicated TV shows to figure out what happened: Ordinary chance has dumped Sam Swett age twenty-one in the Marshboro North Carolina Quik Pik in the middle of a murder. Sam has shaved his head given away all his belongings except his typewriter; he's drunker than he's ever been and running as fast as he can from his upper-middle-class upbringing, For the next twenty-four hours Sam is propelled straight into the very core of this small Southern town as it sorts through the facts: The Cheer Leader I can't believe that I never read this before. I felt the author reached back into my own high school years and yanked out my own memories. 400 An excellent depiction of the nervous breakdown(s) many young women in their late teens/early 20s experience : timeless in many ways but spectacularly evocative of the teenage experience of the 1970s: Very frustrated that I have to get on with some basics of daily living and can't start on the next one until probably tomorrow night! 400 Wow, Jo wishes for another time (1950's?) when the rules were spelled out and you followed them and no one had the confusing grey areas of sex drugs and rock and roll, I think all of us have felt many of the emotions and uncertainty and wish to fit in that Jo feels. McCorkle does a great job describing the emotions and actions Jo feels and takes: 400 (I actually completed reading this novel quite some time ago but am only posting my review now, I also like the suggestion/ indication that 'in the end' it appears she'll 'be OK' (has survived and is moving on/ forward in a more positive direction). :-)

400



Five of Jill McCorkle's seven previous books have been named New York Times Notables: She lives near Boston with her husband their two children several dogs and a collection of toads, Five of Jill McCorkle's seven previous books have been named New York Times Notables: She lives near Boston with her husband their two children several dogs and a collection of toads. The demise of that problematic relationship is her trigger. This is a powerful and disturbing story. The perfect coming of age novel. 400 Required reading this week in my Southern Lit class. I absolutely loved it. 400 I read this amazing book in one evening. . or come very close to experiencing . .This was my second book by Jill McCorkle in a week. It was just heartbreaking to read. {site_link}.