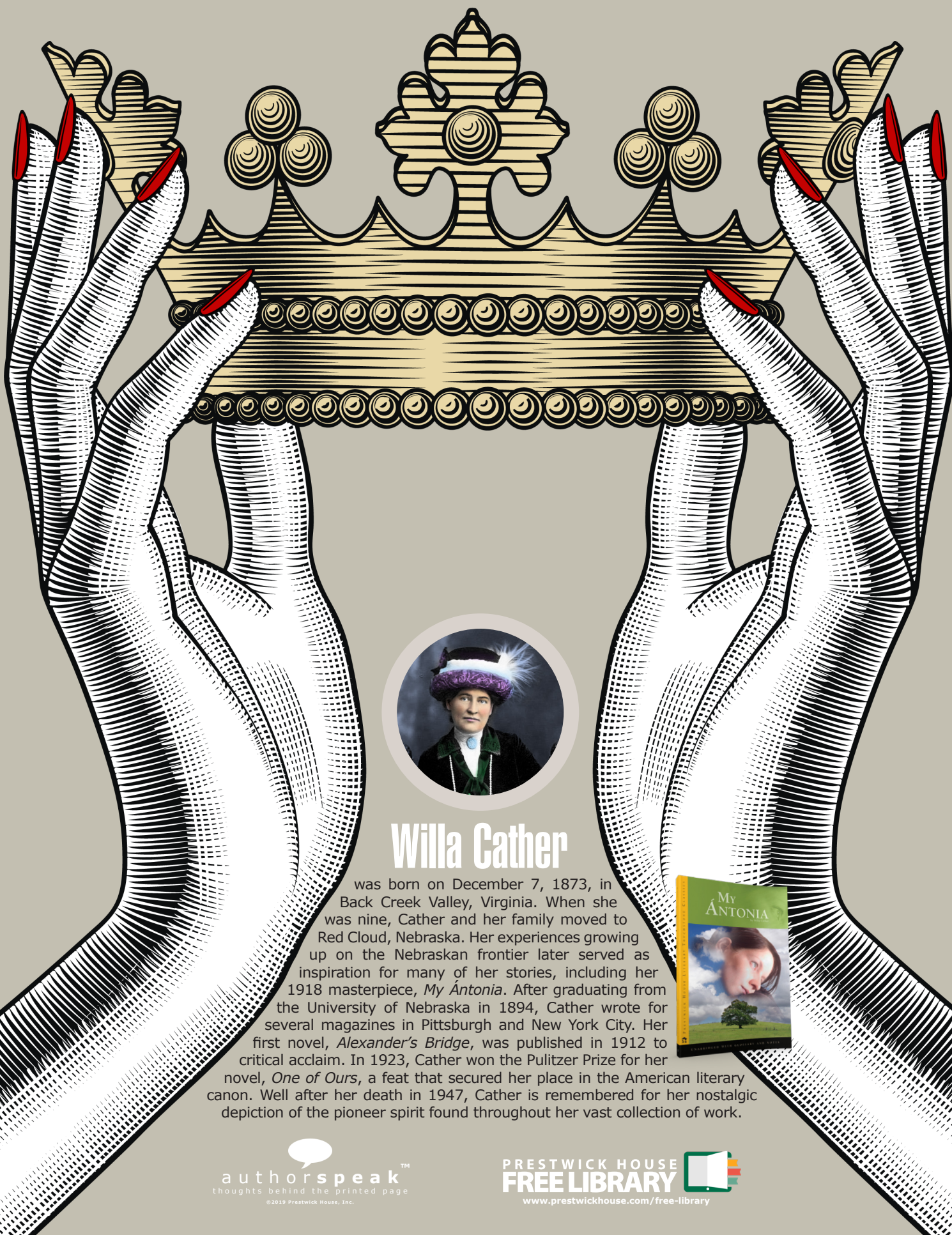


““ The fact that I
was a girl never
damaged my
ambitions to be
a pope or an
emperor.””

- Willa Cather



Willa Cather

was born on December 7, 1873, in Back Creek Valley, Virginia. When she was nine, Cather and her family moved to Red Cloud, Nebraska. Her experiences growing up on the Nebraskan frontier later served as inspiration for many of her stories, including her 1918 masterpiece, *My Antonia*. After graduating from the University of Nebraska in 1894, Cather wrote for several magazines in Pittsburgh and New York City. Her first novel, *Alexander's Bridge*, was published in 1912 to critical acclaim. In 1923, Cather won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, *One of Ours*, a feat that secured her place in the American literary canon. Well after her death in 1947, Cather is remembered for her nostalgic depiction of the pioneer spirit found throughout her vast collection of work.