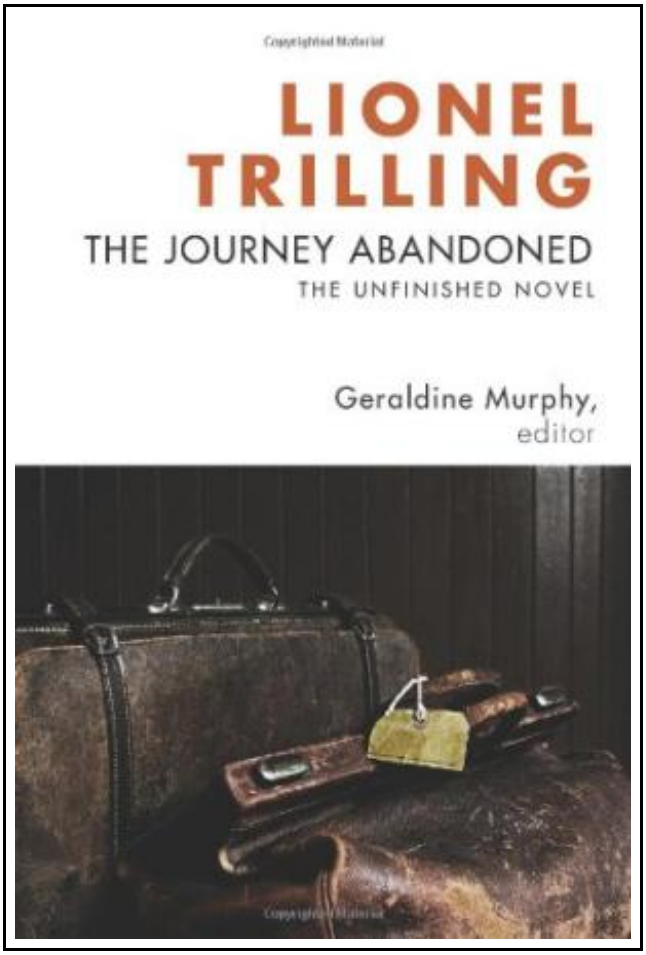
The Journey Abandoned: The Unfinished Novel



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Columbia Univ. Press. 1 Cloth(s), 2008. hard. Book Condition: New. Prominent literary critic Lionel Trilling in fact saw himself as a novelist, notes English professor Geraldine Murphy; in 1947 he published The Middle of the Journey, and though he had high hopes for his next novel, the hostile reception for the first one discouraged him from publishing another. Yet while conducting research in the archives at Columbia University, Murphy found that Trilling had started a second novelone he described as having "point, immediacy, warmth under control, drama, and even size." The Journey Abandoned (Murphy's title) was supposed to be a novel about the anomalies of heroic action in a conformist age; instead, published here at last, it is a highly personal portrait of a life of letters in America."This unfinished work was unearthed among [Trilling's] papers by City College professor Murphy, along with Trilling's own preface and commentary on the work as it stands: 24 short chapters comprising a little more than half of the present book. The novel is based on the late-life of poet Walter Savage Landor (17751864), who got into some unpleasant business surrounding his Bath landlady and her 16-year-old ward. Trilling details the true-life incident in his preface, then moves his own story to 1930s New England. It's as interesting to read his extensive commentary on the unfinished work as it is the piece itself."Publishers Weekly 167.

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