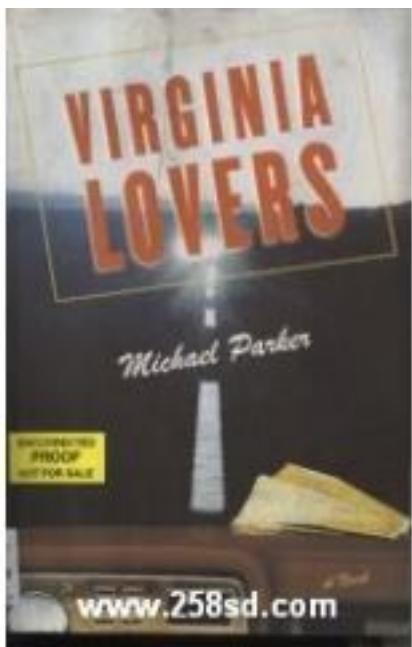


# Virginia Lovers



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ON WV.:I)NI-SDAYS<sup>1/4</sup> Thomas Edgecombe put the paper<br>to bed. Thursday mornings he pretended to relax<sup>1/4</sup> sleeping as late<br>as allowed for a man with two teenage sons at home<sup>1/4</sup> one of whom<br>prepared for school by blasting bass-thumpy<sup>1/4</sup> arrhythmic rock<br>which roused even the decrepit collie from his puddled sleep be-<br>neath the dining room table. Thursday afternoons<sup>1/4</sup> Thomas pre-<br>tended to play golf. After nine years in Trent<sup>1/4</sup> he'd splurged on<br>country club memberships for himself and Strickland<sup>1/4</sup> his partner<br>at the newspaper<sup>1/4</sup> telling himself it would be good for business<sup>1/4</sup><br>they'd sell more advertising<sup>1/4</sup> even though he'd written an editorial<br>criticizing the club's racist membership policies and lived in tear<br>that Sidney Showenstein<sup>1/4</sup> owner of Trent's only department store<br>and one of his most loyal advertisers<sup>1/4</sup> would

discover that he was a<br> member of a club that as late as 1974--last year-- excluded Jews.<br> On the golf course he tried to enjoy himself<sup>1/4</sup> but usually found<br> the weight of the next week's work too heavily with him. But<br> sometimes in fall<sup>1/4</sup> when the light was generous and brilliant and re-<br> tected off the wide plate glass windows of the doctors houses lin-<br> ing the fairways<sup>1/4</sup> Thomas managed moments of ease. Thomas<br> liked golf courses<sup>1/4</sup> admired their artificial and manicured clarity<sup>1/4</sup><br>

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