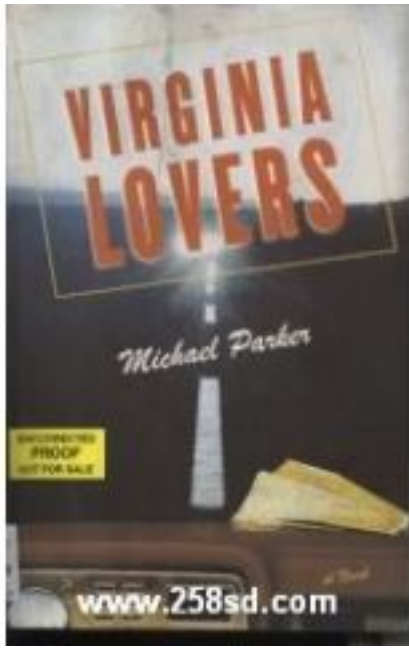


Virginia Lovers



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ON WV.:I)NI-SDAYSi¼Œ Thomas Edgecombe put the paper
to bed. Thursday mornings he pretended to relaxi¼Œ sleeping as late
as allowed for a man with two teenage sons at homei¼Œ one of whom
prepared for school by blasting bass-thumpyi¼Œ arrhythmic rock
which roused even the decrepit collie from his puddled sleep be-
neath the dining room table. Thursday afternoonsi¼Œ Thomas pre-
tended to play golf. After nine years in Trenti¼Œ he d splurged on
country club memberships for himself and Stricklandi¼Œ his partner
at the newspaperi¼Œ telling himself it would be good for businessi¼Œ
they d sell more advertisingi¼Œ even though he d written an editorial
criticizing the club s racist membership policies and lived in tear
that Sidney Showensteini¼Œ owner of Trent s only deparment store
and one of his most loyal advrtisersi¼Œ would

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

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