

# The make-believers



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Congressman Ike Woodruff has other things to do than concern himself with the desperate plight of field-hand Jim Bondy, but he can find no satisfying escape. His spirited and decisive actions set in motion events that reach into distant parts of the country and into the lives, loves and hopes of many people: Bondy and his children, Congressman Ike and his near and distant kin, Painter Leonard, Dr.

George Izlar and his "imported-from Boston" Margaret, Businessman Owen, who wonders if it is too late to become the man he once wanted to be, and making-believe it is not.

"What do you believe, Owen?" asks Izlar.

"That's what matters. I don't care what you know." In essence, Izlar was asking: What do you make-believe?

That question might well be asked of every character in this sweeping novel of challenge and passion and interlocking lives, of personal

problems merging with problems of community and society, of characters with a human dimension seldom found in contemporary fiction—a brilliantly conceived and flawlessly executed new chapter in the saga of Berry Fleming's Fredericksville, Georgia.

A critic has said that despite having published ten novels, Berry Fleming "never writes the same book twice." He has written of New York in *To the Market Place*; of Americans abroad in *Visa to France*; of a country of the mind in *Carnival*; of widely varied aspects of the South in *Siesta*, *Colonel Effingham's Raid*, *The Fortune Tellers*, *The Winter Rider* and *Lucinderella*. No two are alike.

His novels of the South portray neither heroes nor monsters. They do, however, de-

pict those characters who give the South its character. Fleming is never obscure, but he is never obvious. He writes with imagination, warmth and a quiet, subtle humor of people the reader can recognize. His novels are colored by the perceptions of a mature intelligence and by a style that combines a fastidious respect for language with a perfect ear for the Southern vernacular.

Although Colonel Effingham's Raid and The Fortune Tellers were best sellers and major book club selections, Fleming's place among leading American novelists has been more intense than widespread. The reader who discovers Berry Fleming for the first time in The Make-Believers will want to turn to the author's other books and continue his acquaintance with the work of this distinguished novelist.

作者介绍:

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## 书评

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