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A New York Times Notable Book of the Year From a genuine hero of the American short story comes a luminous collection that reveals the seams of hurt, courage, and tenderness that run through the bedrock of contemporary American life. In these fourteen stories, Dubus depicts ordinary men and women confronting injury and loneliness, the lack of love and the terror of actually having it. Out of his characters' struggles and small failures--and their unexpected moments of redemption--Dubus creates fiction that bears comparison to the short story's greatest creators--Chekhov, Raymond Carver, Flannery O'Connor. Some of the country's most admired authors—including Andre Dubus III, Mark Doty, Marianne Leone, Michael Patrick MacDonald, Richard Blanco, Abigail Thomas, Kate Bornstein, Jerald Walker, and Kyoko Mori—describe their treks through dark memories and breakthrough moments and attest to the healing power of putting words to experience. What does it take to write an honest memoir? And what happens to us when we embark on that journey? Melanie Brooks sought guidance from the memoirists who most moved her to answer these questions. Called an essential book for creative writers by Poets & Writers, *Writing Hard Stories* is a unique compilation of authentic stories about the death of a partner, parent, or child; about violence and shunning; and about the process of writing. It will serve as a tool for teachers of writing and give readers an intimate look into the lives of the authors they love. Authors profiled in *Writing Hard Stories*: Andre Dubus III, Sue William Silverman, Michael Patrick MacDonald, Joan Wickersham, Kyoko Mori, Richard Hoffman, Suzanne Strempek Shea, Abigail Thomas, Monica Wood, Mark Doty, Edwidge Danticat, Marianne Leone, Jerald Walker, Kate Bornstein, Jessica Handler, Richard Blanco, Alysia Abbott, and Kim Stafford Insights from *Writing Hard Stories* “Why we endeavor collectively to write a book or paint a canvas or write a symphony...is to understand who we are as human beings, and it's that shared knowledge that somehow helps us to survive.”—Richard Blanco “Here's what you need to understand: your brothers [or family or friends] are going to have their own stories to tell. You don't have to tell the family story. You have to tell your story of being in that family.”—Andre Dubus III “We all need a way to express or make something out of experiences that otherwise have no meaning. If what you want is clarity and meaning, you have to break the secrets over your knee and make something of those ingredients.”—Abigail Thomas “What we remember and how we remember it really tells us how we became who we became.”—Michael Patrick MacDonald “The reason I write memoir is to be able to see the experience itself...I hardly know what I think until I write...Writing is a way to organize your life, give it a frame, give it a structure, so that you can really see what it was that happened.”—Sue William Silverman “After a while in the process, you have some distance and you start thinking of it as a story, not as your story...It was a personal grief, but no longer personal...[It's] something that has not just happened to me and my family, but something that's happened in the world.”—Edwidge Danticat “Tibetan Buddhists believe that eloquence is the telling of a truth in such a way that it eases suffering...The more suffering that is eased by your telling of the truth, the more eloquent you are. That's all you can really hope for—being eloquent in that fashion. All you have to do is respond to your story honestly, and that's the ideal.”—Kate Bornstein “You can never entirely redeem the experience. You can't make it not hurt anymore. But you can make it beautiful enough so that there's something to balance it in the other scale. And if you understand that word beautiful as not necessarily pretty, then you're getting close to recognizing the integrative power of restoring the balance, which is restoring the truth.”—Richard Hoffman With *House of Sand and Fog*, his National Book

Award-nominated novel, Andre Dubus III demonstrated his mastery of the complexities of character and desire. In this earlier novel he captures a roiling time in American history and the coming-of-age of a boy who must decide between desire, ambition, and duty. In the summer of 1967, Leo Suther has one more year of high school to finish and a lot more to learn. He's in love with the beautiful Allie Donovan who introduces him to her father, Chick — a construction foreman and avowed Communist. Soon Leo finds himself in the midst of a consuming love affair and an intense testing of his political values. Chick's passionate views challenge Leo's perspective on the escalating Vietnam conflict and on just where he stands in relation to the new people in his life. Throughout his — and the nation's — unforgettable "summer of love," Leo is learning the language of the blues, which seem to speak to the mourning he feels for his dead mother, his occasionally distant father, and the youth which is fast giving way to manhood. The Oprah Book Club selection for November 2000. This first collection, from one of the most celebrated masters of the form, "restores faith in the survival of the short story" (Los Angeles Times). For the men and women in Andre Dubus's poignant debut collection, life and love are not without their tribulations. The devout endeavor to reconcile the demands of their faith with their most basic human inclinations. A doctor is confronted with his limitations as a man. Husbands and wives seek solace in the beds of others, even as their infidelities expose them to further heartbreak. Etched in austere prose that is punctuated with powerful emotional moments, the richly drawn characters of *Separate Flights* command both compassion and admiration. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate. The reflective essays of one of America's most accomplished authors. Andre Dubus is celebrated for depicting the subtlest of human emotions and finding compassion for the most damaged, and damaging, of characters. In the essays collected here, the author turns the microscope on himself, and the results are no less illuminating. Intimate and evocative, these autobiographical accounts of his childhood in Louisiana, his experiences in the Marine Corps, and, later, his life as a husband and father, paint a vivid portrait of this acclaimed author. Written with the sapience and depth of feeling that made his reputation in fiction, *Broken Vessels* is perhaps Dubus's most intimate work of all. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate. NATIONAL BESTSELLER "Ms. Haigh is an expertly nuanced storyteller long overdue for major attention. Her work is gripping, real, and totally immersive, akin to that of writers as different as Richard Price, Richard Ford, and Richard Russo."—Janet Maslin, *New York Times* The highly praised, "extraordinary" (*New York Times Book Review*) novel about the disparate lives that intersect at a women's clinic in Boston, by *New York Times* bestselling author Jennifer Haigh For almost a decade, Claudia has counseled patients at Mercy Street, a clinic in the heart of the city. The work is consuming, the unending dramas of women in crisis. For its patients, Mercy Street offers more than health care; for many, it is a second chance. But outside the clinic, the reality is different. Anonymous threats are frequent. A small, determined group of anti-abortion demonstrators appears each morning at its door. As the protests intensify, fear creeps into Claudia's days, a humming anxiety she manages with frequent visits to Timmy, an affable pot dealer in the midst of his own existential crisis. At Timmy's, she encounters a random assortment of customers, including Anthony, a lost soul who spends most of his life online, chatting with the mysterious Excelsior11—the screenname of Victor Prine, an anti-abortion crusader who has set his sights on Mercy Street and is ready to risk it all for his beliefs. *Mercy Street* is a novel for right now, a story of the polarized American present. Jennifer Haigh, "an expert natural storyteller with a keen sense of her characters' humanity" (*New York Times*), has written a groundbreaking novel, a fearless examination of one of the most divisive issues of our time. Breece D'J Pancake cut short a promising career when he took his own life at the age twenty-six. Published posthumously, this is a collection of stories that depict the world of Pancake's native rural West Virginia. The twenty-five luminous and intensely personal essays in this collection are, like Andre Dubus's celebrated short stories, a testament to the author's vulnerability, vision, and indestructible faith. Since losing one leg and the use of the other in a 1986 accident, Dubus has experienced despair, learned acceptance, and, finally, found joy in the sacramental magic of even the most quotidian tasks. Whether he is writing of the relationship with his father, the rape of his beloved sister, his Catholic faith, the suicide of a gay naval officer, his admiration for fellow writers like Hemingway and Mailer, or the simple act of making sandwiches for his daughters' lunchboxes, Dubus cuts straight to the heart of things. Here we have a master at the height of his powers, an artist whose work "is suffused with grace, bathed in a kind of spiritual glow" (*The New York Times Book Review*). Seven stories of people facing turning points in their lives feature a grief-stricken father, a brother whose mother has just left home, and a woman

whose many lovers cause her to doubt she will ever truly know love. The third volume in Godines 2018 re-issue of the short stories and novellas of Andre Dubus, *The Cross Country Runner* brings together his 1986 collection *Last Worthless Evening* and *Voices from the Moon* his longest, most masterful novella with previously uncollected stories, and a new introduction by PEN Faulkner Award-winning author Tobias Wolff. “From now on, there are bound to be two classics of the Great Depression—*The Grapes of Wrath* and *Hardcastle*.” —Los Angeles Times

In 1931 William Music is making his way back home to Virginia when he hops off a freight train in Switch County, Kentucky, to find something to eat. For eleven cents—all the money in his pocket—he buys a soda bottle’s worth of moonshine. Farther down the road, he takes two turnips and a handful of string beans from a kitchen garden and beds down for the night in a haystack. It is still dark out when he wakes up to a dog licking his forehead and a man pointing a pistol in his face. Despite the awkward introduction, Music and Regus Bone are soon friends. Bone is a guard at Hardcastle Coal Co., whose owner will do anything to keep his employees from unionizing. For the irresistible wage of three dollars a day, Music—outfitted with an ancient, misfiring revolver and a holster made from a feed sack—hires on as a watchman despite his queasy feelings about the job. His attraction to the young widow of a miner killed by a former guard only deepens his discomfort, and when he and Bone catch a pair of union organizers, they make a decision that will change their lives and Switch County forever. Inspired by real events, *Hardcastle* is a stirring tribute to the power of friendship and family in a time and place in which the price of integrity is more than a man on his own can bear. From the acclaimed author of ‘*A Father’s Story*’: A boy looks to the Catholic Church for understanding as his family weathers two failed marriages. *Voices from the Moon* opens amidst the fallout of Stowe family patriarch Greg’s divorce from his wife, Joan; and shortly after, that of their eldest son, Larry, from his wife, Brenda. On the verge of adolescence, young Richie Stowe grapples to make sense of these events and their consequences, and seeks solace in the church. As the family attempts to mend itself and move forward, its members are forced to reconcile their feelings of betrayal with their enduring love for one another. Masterfully related from the alternating perspectives of its six main characters, Dubus’s richly drawn novella recounts a family’s failure to abide by those laws divined and decreed, and its path to redemption via understanding and forgiveness. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author’s estate. Over three decades, celebrated fiction writer Andre Dubus (1936–1999) published seven collections of short stories, two collections of essays, two collections of previously published stories, two novels, and a novella. While this is an impressive publishing record for any writer, for Dubus, who suffered a near-fatal accident mid-career, it is near miraculous. Just after midnight on July 23, 1986, after stopping to assist two stranded motorists, Dubus was struck by a car. His right leg was crushed, and his left leg had to be amputated above the knee. After months of hospital stays and surgeries, he would suffer chronic pain for the rest of his life. However, when he gave his first interview after the accident, his deepest fear was that he would never write again. This collection of interviews traces his career beginning in 1967 with the publication of his novel *The Lieutenant*, to his final interview given right before his death February 24, 1999. In between are conversations that focus on his shift to essay writing during his long recovery period as well as those that celebrate his return to fiction with the publication of “*The Colonel’s Wife*,” in 1993. Dubus would also share stories surrounding his Louisiana childhood, his three marriages, the writers who influenced him, and his deep Catholic faith. A Vintage Shorts “Short Story Month” Selection The colonel had served in two wars with the Marines, without being injured. Then, at home, he breaks both legs falling off a horse, and learns that his knees will never fully recover. Together with his wife, he will have to relearn everything, all over again. “*The Colonel’s Wife*” is the moving story of a man and his wife, the woman for whom, when he met her for the first time, he felt “that he was looking at the sun without burning his eyes.” A story of peace after war and the continued drama of real life. From Andre Dubus’s masterful and compassionate collection *Dancing After Hours*, a New York Times Notable Book. An eBook short. An anthology of men’s stories, poems, and narrative essays, that shows who men are. Twenty-three unforgettable short stories from one of America’s most celebrated literary masters. John Updike once said of his friend and fellow writer Andre Dubus: “[He] is a shrewd student of people who come to accept pain as a fair price for pleasure, and to view right and wrong as a matter of degree.” Dubus’s characters are depicted in all their imperfection, but with the author’s requisite tenderness and compassion. After all, they are just as human as we are, and there is much to learn from their complicated, tragic, irrepressible lives. Including such acclaimed masterworks as ‘*A Father’s Story*’, ‘*Townies*’, ‘*The Winter Father*’, and ‘*Killings*’, the short stories and novellas compiled here represent the best work of one of our most

accomplished and acutely sensitive authors. Dubus's Selected Stories is an anthology unmatched in its collective portrayal of the human condition. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate. An overview of a canon influenced by military service, faith, and a life-changing accident Andre Dubus (1936–1999), the author of short stories, novellas, essays, and two novels, is perhaps best known as the author of the story "Killings," which was adapted into the film *In the Bedroom*, a nominee for five Academy Awards in 2001. His work received many awards, including the PEN New England Award, the PEN Malamud Award, the Rea Award for the Short Story, and the Jean Stein Award. In *Understanding Andre Dubus*, Olivia Carr Edenfield focuses on the major influences that span Dubus's canon—his Catholic upbringing, Marine Corps service, and turn to fiction at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, as well as the influence that a life-threatening accident had on his work. Edenfield traces how Dubus's experiences serve as a backdrop for the major themes that run through his work: faith, family, and infidelity. His marriages, the complex relationships with his children, and his difficult recovery from a car accident exerted a powerful influence on his work. Dubus also took up the complicated themes of love and marriage, fatherhood and faith, and despair and spiritual healing; his subjects and style were influenced significantly by Ernest Hemingway. After Dubus's novel *Broken Vessels* was named a runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize in 1991, he returned to writing short stories, the genre for which he is still renowned. He focused on a character much like himself who had to learn to navigate the world while afflicted with physical and spiritual disability. In 1996 he published his critically acclaimed short story cycle *Dancing after Hours*, an appropriate ending to a career that celebrated the healing power of the human heart. I've never read a better or more serious meditation on violence, its sources, consequences, and, especially, its terrifying pleasures, than "Townie." It's a brutal and, yes, thrilling memoir that sheds real light on the creative process of two of our best writers, Andre Dubus III and his famous, much revered father. You'll never read the work of either man in quite the same way afterward. You may not view the world in quite the same way either.--Richard Russo, author of "Empire Falls." An edgy and ambitious debut by a powerful new voice in contemporary literary fiction Monday, Kierk wakes up. Once a rising star in neuroscience, Kierk Suren is now homeless, broken by his all-consuming quest to find a scientific theory of consciousness. But when he's offered a spot in a prestigious postdoctoral program, he decides to rejoin society and vows not to self-destruct again. Instead of focusing on his work, however, Kierk becomes obsessed with another project—investigating the sudden and suspicious death of a colleague. As his search for truth brings him closer to Carmen Green, another postdoc, their list of suspects grows, along with the sense that something sinister may be happening all around them. The Revelations, not unlike its main character, is ambitious and abrasive, challenging and disarming. Bursting with ideas, ranging from Greek mythology to the dark realities of animal testing, to some of the biggest unanswered questions facing scientists today, *The Revelations* is written in muscular, hypnotic prose, and its cyclically dreamlike structure pushes the boundaries of literary fiction. Erik Hoel has crafted a stunning debut of rare power—an intense look at cutting-edge science, consciousness, and human connection. "Dubus relives, absent self-pity or blame, a life shaped by bouts of violence and flurries of tenderness." —Vanity Fair After their parents divorced in the 1970s, Andre Dubus III and his three siblings grew up with their overworked mother in a depressed Massachusetts mill town saturated with drugs and everyday violence. Nearby, his father, an eminent author, taught on a college campus and took the kids out on Sundays. The clash between town and gown, between the hard drinking, drugging, and fighting of "townies" and the ambitions of students debating books and ideas, couldn't have been more stark. In this unforgettable memoir, acclaimed novelist Dubus shows us how he escaped the cycle of violence and found empathy in channeling the stories of others—bridging, in the process, the rift between his father and himself. "So good, so damn compulsively readable, that I can hardly believe it." —Stephen King, *Entertainment Weekly* In his stunning follow-up to the #1 best-selling *House of Sand and Fog*, Andre Dubus draws us into the lives of three deeply flawed, driven people whose paths intersect on a September night in Florida. April, a stripper, has brought her daughter to work at the Puma Club for Men. There she encounters Bassam, a foreign client both remote and too personal, and free with his money. Meanwhile, another man, AJ, has been thrown out of the club, and he's drunk and angry and lonely. From these explosive elements comes a relentless, raw, and page-turning narrative that seizes the reader by the throat with psychological tension, depth, and realism. This "haunting and subtle" collection of short stories offers a compassionate portrayal of man's journey from childhood to maturity (*Publishers Weekly*). For the adolescents in Part One of Andre Dubus's *Adultery & Other Choices*, youth is characterized by humiliation,

alienation, and disappointment: A son struggles to connect with his distant father, and later he must overcome a schoolyard bully. Then, for the soldiers that inhabit Part Two, service is synonymous with sacrifice, as marriages and limbs falter and fail. But for the bitterly lonely wife of a promiscuous professor, a hopeless affair with a dying ex-priest provides her with the strength necessary to retake control of her life. In the aptly titled follow-up to *Separate Flights*, Dubus expertly traces the arc of human life, and honors the men and women he portrays with such faithful veracity. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate. For Andre Dubus, "the quotidian and the spiritual don't exist on different planes, but infuse each other. His is an unapologetically sacramental vision of life in which ordinary things participate in the miraculous, the miraculous in ordinary things. He believes in God, and talks to Him, and doesn't mince words. He believes in ghosts . . . He is open to mystery, and of all mysteries the one that interests him most is the human potential for transcendence." So wrote Tobias Wolff seven years ago, about Andre Dubus's *Broken Vessels*, and that insight describes perfectly the twenty-five pieces in this powerfully moving new collection, a continuation of Dubus's candid, intensely personal exploration into matters of morality, religion, and creativity. Since that first book of essays, written after the 1986 accident that cost him his leg and, for a time, the ability to write, Mr. Dubus has published *Dancing After Hours*, a unanimously heralded book of stories "at once harrowing and exhilarating" (Time). Here is Dubus on the rape of his beloved sister, his first real job, a gay naval officer, Hemingway, the blessing of his first marriage, his dear friend Richard Yates, his own crippling, lost autumnal pleasures, having sons and grandsons, his first books, meeting a woman who witnessed his accident, the Catholic church, and, of course, his faith. A writer of immense sensitivity, vulnerability, and thoughtfulness--a master at the height of his talent--whose work "is suffused with grace, bathed in a kind of spiritual glow" (New York Times Book Review). Andre Dubus's short stories and novellas illuminate the lives of women and men cast against harrowing and heartrending circumstances. The gripping themes of Dubus's *uvre*--faith and family, violence and loyalty, guilt and morality--have earned him comparisons to master storytellers such as Raymond Carver, Flannery O'Connor, and Anton Chekhov. With a deft touch, Dubus tackles nearly unspeakable subjects. Yet, without succumbing to sentimentality he imbues his characters with a quiet dignity in stories infused with an unerring belief that even the most complicated moments of our lives contain the possibility of grace. Dubus is a shrewd student of people who come to accept pain as a fair price for pleasure, and to view right and wrong as a matter of degree... Dubus ... continues to introduce us to ourselves, to see into the private worlds of everyday people as they live, dream and act, taking soundings that are deep and true. Book jacket. A collection of short stories examining the lives of suburbanites seeking solace and gratification in food, sex, work, and love. Passion and betrayal, violent desperation, ambivalent love that hinges on hatred, and the quest for acceptance by those who stand on the edge of society--these are the hard-hitting themes of a stunningly crafted first collection of stories by the bestselling author of *House of Sand and Fog*. A vigilant young man working in a halfway house finds himself unable to defend against the rage of one of the inmates in the title story. In "White Trees, Hammer Moon," a man soon to leave home for prison finds himself as unprepared for a family camping trip in the mountains of New Hampshire as he has been for most things in his life. And in the award-winning "Forky," an ex-con is haunted by the punishment he receives just as he is being released into the world. With an incisive ability to inhabit the lives of his characters, Dubus travels deep into the heart of the elusive American dream. A tour de force collection from an American master of short fiction--"its emotional heartbeat is so insistently truthful" (The New York Times). In his fifth collection of short fiction, Andre Dubus exhibits his remarkable storytelling range. In "Deaths at Sea," two naval officers, one black and one white, must come to terms with a history and an institution steeped in racism. "After the Game" tells the story of a Hispanic shortstop on a major-league baseball team who suddenly and without explanation loses his mind. And in "Rose," a mother finally stands up to her husband's abuse of their children. The four novellas and two short stories that comprise *The Last Worthless Evening* traverse those facets of American life that are at the same time cruel and commonplace, and with spare, immediate prose, render them universal. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate. The third heartbreaking collection of short stories from the acclaimed master who is "here not to offer comfort but truth" (The New Yorker). The ominous tone of this exquisite collection is established at its onset, as a bereaved father stalks the man who murdered his son. Three stories later, a college student suffers a violent death at the hands of her boyfriend. And in later episodes, relationships falter and fail, not all fatalities being of the flesh. Featuring some of the Dubus

canon's most haunting narratives, *Finding a Girl in America* is a remarkable lesson in the depiction of the darker side of human nature. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate. Andre Dubus III's first collection of stunningly crafted short stories explores passion and betrayal, violent desperation, ambivalent love that hinges on hatred, and the quest for acceptance by those on the edge of society. "Duckling Girl" is a bold and unsentimental exploration of the psychology of abuse, while the title story, "The Cage Keeper," is a hard-hitting tale of physical and emotional incarceration. Five other stories are equally gritty, tough, and emotionally gripping, for though Dubus creates a world that threatens to crush his characters both body and soul, he also reveals the profound dignity of their determination to endure. Andre Dubus III's first novel in a decade is a masterpiece of thrilling tension and heartrending empathy. Few writers can enter their characters so completely or evoke their lives as viscerally as Andre Dubus III. In this deeply compelling new novel, a father, estranged for the worst of reasons, is driven to seek out the daughter he has not seen in decades. Daniel Ahearn lives a quiet, solitary existence in a seaside New England town. Forty years ago, following a shocking act of impulsive violence on his part, his daughter, Susan, was ripped from his arms by police. Now in her forties, Susan still suffers from the trauma of a night she doesn't remember, as she struggles to feel settled, to love a man and create something that lasts. Lois, her maternal grandmother who raised her, tries to find peace in her antique shop in a quaint Florida town but cannot escape her own anger, bitterness, and fear. Cathartic, affirming, and steeped in the empathy and precise observations of character for which Dubus is celebrated, *Gone So Long* explores how the wounds of the past afflict the people we become, and probes the limits of recovery and absolution. A bereaved father stalks his son's killer. A woman cries alone by her television screen. A devout teenager wrestles with his faith and sexuality. Here, in these twenty-three stories, Andre Dubus turns fiction into an act of compassion. For readers new to Dubus, this is the perfect starting point. For fans of his, this is an essential, must-have collection. Andre Dubus is celebrated for his ability to depict the subtlest of human emotions in his characters, and when he turns to nonfiction, the resulting insights are no less illuminative. Especially moving are his descriptions of his children, his wrenching account of the 1986 automobile accident that cost him his leg, and of the ensuing struggle for his spiritual and physical survival. *Broken Vessels* is a book that, in its scope and sympathy, its grace and courage, never fails to startle with the sudden impact of quiet truths, passionately felt and powerfully expressed. Dubus's fourth collection is a compassionate depiction of lives that are never as neat as his characters would have them be. In his fourth collection, Andre Dubus revisits the themes of infidelity and fallibility that he has been known to explore with such unflinching honesty and unfailing respect. Set in the New England landscape and populated by the men and women he has come to claim as his own, these stories are ultimately characterized by their extraordinary ordinariness. They are a reverent testament to the quiet sadness of humble lives. Deeply moving and insightful, *The Times Are Never So Bad* is yet another masterful work by a writer whose Chekhovian sensibilities inform—yet never distract from—his own fully realized perspective. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Andre Dubus including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate.

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