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The Sportswriter The Sportswriter The Sportswriter The Sportswriter The Lay of the Land Let Me Be Frank With You The Bascombe Novels Independence Day 31 Letters and 13 Dreams: Poems Between Them Rock Springs The Painted Bird A Multitude of Sins Women With Men Sorry for Your Trouble Perspectives on Richard Ford The Ultimate Good Luck Canada Wildlife Vintage Ford Brave Deeds A Piece of My Heart The Cost of These Dreams Let Me Be Frank With You Conversations with Richard Ford Sportswriter A Piece of My Heart The Granta Book of the American Short Story Sportjournalisten Born to Run Independence Day Deliverance The Lay of the Land Be Mine Be Mine Gerald's Party Rabbit Angstrom A Fan's Notes The Moviegoer Richard Ford and the Ends of Realism

"My name is Frank Bascombe. I am a sportswriter"--One of the most famous lines in American literature opens this classic, inimitable tour de force. When we first met him in Rabbit, Run (1960), the book that established John Updike as a major novelist, Harry (Rabbit) Angstrom is playing basketball with some boys in an alley in Pennsylvania during the tail end of the Eisenhower era, reliving for a moment his past as a star high school athlete. Athleticism of a different sort is on display throughout these four magnificent

novels—the athleticism of an imagination possessed of the ability to lay bare, with a seemingly effortless animal grace, the enchantments and disenchantments of life. Updike revisited his hero toward the end of each of the following decades in the second half of this American century; and in each of the subsequent novels, as Rabbit, his wife, Janice, his son, Nelson, and the people around them grow, these characters take on the lineaments of our common existence. In prose that is one of the glories of contemporary literature, Updike has chronicled the frustrations and ambiguous triumphs, the longuers, the loves and frenzies, the betrayals and reconciliations of our era. He has given us our representative American story. This Rabbit Angstrom volume is composed of the following novels: *Rabbit, Run*; *Rabbit Redux*; *Rabbit is Rich*; and *Rabbit at Rest*.

Sportjournalisten är den första boken i Richard Fords hyllade Bascombe-trilogi som sedan följdes av *Självständighetsdagen* och *Som landet ligger*. Här får vi för första gången möta den amerikanske antihjälten Frank Bascombe. Han är en frånskild sportjournalist som bor i en av New Yorks trygga förorter, älskar sina barn och spenderar sina dagar med att studera människor. Men livet blev inte riktigt som han hade tänkt sig. Han lider av hjärtklappning och dagdrömmar, hans karriär går inte riktigt så bra som han skulle önska. Vi får följa Frank under en påskhelg med hans nya älskarinna då allting sakta drivs till sin spets och han tvingas rannsaka sitt liv på allvar.

Sportjournalisten är en gripande, stark och skarpsynt roman om det moderna USA, ensamhetens konsekvenser och

*kärlekens villkor. En stor roman som många kommer att känna igen sig i. Frank Bascombe is no longer a sportswriter, yet he's still living in Haddam, New Jersey, where he now sells real estate. He's still divorced, though his ex-wife, to his dismay, has remarried and moved along with their children to Connecticut. But Frank is happy enough in his work and pursuing various civic and entrepreneurial sidelines. He has high hopes for this 4th of July weekend: a search for a house for deeply hapless clients relocating to Vermont; a rendezvous on the Jersey shore with his girlfriend; then up to Connecticut to pick up his larcenous and emotionally troubled teenage son and visit as many sports halls of fame as they can fit into two days. Frank's Independence Day, however, turns out not as he'd planned, and this decent, appealingly bewildered, profoundly observant man is wrenched, gradually and inevitably, out of his private refuge. Independence Day captures the mystery of life — in all its conflicted glory — with grand humour, intense compassion and transfixing power. At a time when Richard Ford was considering giving up writing fiction, suddenly he was hailed in Newsweek as "one of the best writers of his generation." Then Ford's *The Sportswriter* (1986), the story of suburbanite Frank Bascombe's struggle to survive loneliness and great loss, was published to great acclaim. Its sequel, *Independence Day* (1995), was the first novel to win both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award. With three other novels, a well-received volume of short stories, and a trilogy of novellas to his credit, Ford was firmly established as a major*

literary figure. The nine essays in this volume demonstrate that Ford, like few other writers of his time, powerfully depicts what it feels like to live in the secular late-twentieth-century world, a dangerous and uncertain place where human relationships are impoverished and human existence is empty and alienated. Perspectives on Richard Ford, the first book-length examination of Richard Ford's fiction, is a reader's essential companion for studying the works of one of America's most outstanding contemporary writers. The classic novel of a boy's struggle for survival in WWII Poland, from the National Book Award-winning author of Steps and Being There. "In 1939, a six-year-old boy is sent by his anti-Nazi parents to a remote village in Poland where they believe he will be safe. Things happen, however, and the boy is left to roam the Polish countryside. . . . To the blond, blue-eyed peasants in this part of the country, the swarthy, dark-eyed boy who speaks the dialect of the educated class is either Jew, gypsy, vampire, or devil. They fear him and they fear what the Germans will do to them if he is found among them. So he must keep moving. In doing so, over a period of years, he observes every conceivable variation on the theme of horror" (Kirkus Reviews). Originally published in 1965, The Painted Bird established Jerzy Kosinski as a major literary figure. With sparse prose and vivid imagery, it is a story of mythic proportion and timeless human relevance. "One of the best . . . Written with deep sincerity and sensitivity." —Elie Wiesel, The New York Times Book Review "Of all the remarkable fiction that emerged from World War II, nothing stands higher than Jerzy Kosinski's

The Painted Bird. A magnificent work of art, and a celebration of the individual will. No one who reads it will forget it; no one who reads it will be unmoved by it. The Painted Bird enriches our literature and our lives."

—Jonathan Yardley, The Miami Herald "Extraordinary . . . Literally staggering . . . One of the most powerful books I have ever read." —Richard Kluger, Harper's Magazine "One of our most significant writers." —Newsweek From Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford: the final novel in the world of Frank Bascombe, one of the most indelible characters in American literature Over the course of four celebrated works of fiction and almost forty years, Richard Ford has crafted an ambitious, incisive, and singular view of American life as lived. Unconstrained, astute, provocative, often laugh-out-loud funny, Frank Bascombe is once more our guide to the great American midway. Now in the twilight of life, a man who has occupied many colorful lives—sportswriter, father, husband, ex-husband, friend, real estate agent—Bascombe finds himself in the most sorrowing role of all: caregiver to his son, Paul, diagnosed with ALS. On a shared winter odyssey to Mount Rushmore, Frank, in typical Bascombe fashion, faces down the mortality that is assured each of us, and in doing so confronts what happiness might signify at the end of days. In this memorable novel, Richard Ford puts on displays the prose, wit, and intelligence that make him one of our most acclaimed living writers. Be Mine is a profound, funny, poignant love letter to our beleaguered world. The landscape of Women with Men ranges from the northern plains of Montana to the streets of Paris and the

suburbs of Chicago. The tragedies that stalk the characters are unfolded with an indelible wit and clarity. So merciless is Ford's lingering gaze upon human, mostly male, weakness, so understanding his eye for the unravelling threads of human love, that this collection of novellas seems only to broaden the reputation and the following of one of the outstanding writers of our time. In 2009, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band performed at the Super Bowl's half-time show. The experience was so exhilarating that Bruce decided to write about it. That's how this extraordinary autobiography began. Over the past seven years, Bruce Springsteen has privately devoted himself to writing the story of his life, bringing to these pages the same honesty, humour, and originality found in his songs. He describes growing up Catholic in Freehold, New Jersey, amid the poetry, danger, and darkness that fueled his imagination, leading up to the moment he refers to as "The Big Bang": seeing Elvis Presley's debut on The Ed Sullivan Show. He vividly recounts his relentless drive to become a musician, his early days as a bar band king in Asbury Park, and the rise of the E Street Band. With disarming candour, he also tells for the first time the story of the personal struggles that inspired his best work, and shows us why the song "Born to Run" reveals more than we previously realized. The Granta Book of the American Short Story is a selection of the best works of American short fiction published in the last 50 years. -- Publisher details. The Pulitzer-Prize Winning novel for 1996. In this visionary sequel to *The Sportswriter*, Richard Ford deepens his portrait of one of the most unforgettable

characters in American fiction, and in so doing gives us an indelible portrait of America. Frank Bascombe, in the aftermath of his divorce and the ruin of his career, has entered an "Existence Period," selling real estate in Haddam, New Jersey, and mastering the high-wire act of normalcy. But over one Fourth of July weekend, Frank is called into sudden, bewildering engagement with life. *Independence Day* is a moving, peerlessly funny odyssey through America and through the layered consciousness of one of its most compelling literary incarnations, conducted by a novelist of astonishing empathy and perception. As a sportswriter, Frank Bascombe makes his living studying people--men, mostly--who live entirely within themselves. This is a condition that Frank himself aspires to. But at thirty-eight, he suffers from incurable dreaminess, occasional pounding of the heart, and the not-too-distant losses of a career, a son, and a marriage. In the course of the Easter week in which Ford's moving novel transpires, Bascombe will end up losing the remnants of his familiar life, though with his spirits soaring. The instant New York Times bestseller! From one of America's most beloved sportswriters and the bestselling author of *Pappyland*, a collection of true stories about the dream of greatness and its cost in the world of sports. "Wright Thompson's stories are so full of rich characters, bad actors, heroes, drama, suffering, courage, conflict, and vivid detail that I sometimes thinks he's working my side of the street - the world of fiction." - John Grisham *There is only one Wright Thompson. He is, as they say, famous if you*

know who he is: his work includes the most read articles in the history of ESPN (and it's not even close) and has been anthologized in the Best American Sports Writing series ten times, and he counts John Grisham and Richard Ford among his ardent admirers (see back of book). But to say his pieces are about sports, while true as far as it goes, is like saying Larry McMurtry's Lonesome Dove is a book about a cattle drive. Wright Thompson figures people out. He jimmyes the lock to the furnaces inside the people he profiles and does an analysis of the fuel that fires their ambition. Whether it be Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods or Pat Riley or Urban Meyer, he strips the away the self-serving myths and fantasies to reveal his characters in full. There are fascinating common denominators: it may not be the case that every single great performer or coach had a complex relationship with his father, but it can sure seem that way. And there is much marvelous local knowledge: about specific sports, and times and places, and people. Ludicrously entertaining and often powerfully moving, The Cost of These Dreams is an ode to the reporter's art, and a celebration of true greatness and the high price that it exacts. This fictional memoir, the first of an autobiographical trilogy, traces a self professed failure's nightmarish descent into the underside of American life and his resurrection to the wisdom that emerges from despair. Richard Hugo, whom Carolyn Kizer has called "one of the most passionate, energetic, and honest poets living," here offers an extraordinary collection of new poems, each one a "letter" or a "dream." Both letters and dreams are special

manifestations of alone-ness; Hugo's special senses of alone-ness, of places, and of other people are the forces behind his distinctively American and increasingly authoritative poetic voice. Each letter is written from a specific place that Hugo has made his own (a "triggering town," as he has called it elsewhere) to a friend, a fellow poet, an old love. We read over the poet's shoulder as the town triggers the imagination, the friendship is re-opened, the poet's selfhood is explored and illuminated. The "dreams" turn up unexpectedly (as dreams do) among the letters; their haunting images give further depth to the poet's exploration. Are we overhearing them? Who is the "you" that dreams? From Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford: the final novel in the world of Frank Bascombe, one of the most indelible characters in American literature Over the course of four celebrated works of fiction and almost forty years, Richard Ford has crafted an ambitious, incisive, and singular view of American life as lived. Unconstrained, astute, provocative, often laugh-out-loud funny, Frank Bascombe is once more our guide to the great American midway. Now in the twilight of life, a man who has occupied many colorful lives--sportswriter, father, husband, ex-husband, friend, real estate agent--Bascombe finds himself in the most sorrowing role of all: caregiver to his son, Paul, diagnosed with ALS. On a shared winter odyssey to Mount Rushmore, Frank, in typical Bascombe fashion, faces down the mortality that is assured each of us, and in doing so confronts what happiness might signify at the end of days. In this memorable novel, Richard Ford puts on displays the prose,

wit, and intelligence that make him one of our most acclaimed living writers. *Be Mine* is a profound, funny, poignant love letter to our beleaguered world. First, I'll tell about the robbery our parents committed. Then about the murders, which happened later. It was more bad instincts and bad luck that lead to Dell Parsons' parents robbing a bank. They weren't reckless people, but in an instant, their actions alter fifteen-year-old Dell's sense of normal life forever. In the days that follow, he is saved before the authorities think to arrive. Driving across Montana, his life hurtles towards the unknown; a hotel in a deserted town, the violent and enigmatic Arthur Remlinger, and towards Canada itself. But, as Dell discovers, in this new world of secrets and upheaval, he is not the only one whose past lies on the other side of the border. In these ten stories, Ford mines literary gold from the wind-scrubbed landscape of the American West - and from the guarded hopes and gnawing loneliness of the people who live there. A refugee from justice driving across Wyoming with his daughter; an unhappy girlfriend and a stolen Mercedes; a boy watching his family dissolve in a night of tragicomic violence; two men and a woman swapping hard-luck stories in a frontier bar as they try to sweeten their luck. *Rock Springs* is a masterpiece of taut narration, cleanly chiselled prose, and empathy so generous that it feels like a kind of grace. *Great Falls, Montana*, is where the Rockies end and where, in 1960, the Brinson family hopes to find a better life. Instead, sixteen-year-old Joe Brinson watches his parents discover the limits of their marriage and, at the same time, the unexpected

depths of dignity and courage that remain even when love dies. "An original exploration of the work of writer Richard Ford in the context of its place within contemporary debates about the possible role, meaning of, and value of literary realism in a postmodern age"-- NATIONAL BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST • The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Independence Day* and *The Sportswriter* brings back the unforgettable Frank Bascombe in this astonishing meditation on modern-day America. A sportswriter and a real estate agent, husband and father—Frank Bascombe has been many things to many people. His uncertain youth behind him, we follow him through three days during the autumn of 2000, when his trade as a realtor on the Jersey Shore is thriving. But as a presidential election hangs in the balance, and a post-nuclear-family Thanksgiving looms before him, Frank discovers that what he terms "the Permanent Period" is fraught with unforeseen perils. An astonishing meditation on America today and filled with brilliant insights, *The Lay of the Land* is a magnificent achievement from one of the most celebrated chroniclers of our time. Also available in the *Bascombe Trilogy: The Sportswriter and Independence Day*

Frank Bascombe has a younger girlfriend and a job as a sportswriter. To many men of his age, thirty-eight, this would be a cause for optimism, yet Frank feels the pull of his inner despair and especially of his recent losses - his preferred career has ended, his wife has divorced him, and a tragic accident took his elder son. In the course of this Easter weekend, Frank will lose all the remnants of his familiar life,

though he will emerge heroic with spirits soaring. This is a magnificent novel that propelled Richard Ford into the first rank of American writers. Interviews with the Pulitzer Prize--winning author of *The Sportswriter* and *Independence Day* A brilliant new work that returns Richard Ford to the hallowed territory that sealed his reputation as an American master: the world of Frank Bascombe, and the landscape of his celebrated novels *The Sportswriter*, the Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner winning *Independence Day*, and *The Lay of the Land*. In his trio of world-acclaimed novels portraying the life of an entire American generation, Richard Ford has imagined one of the most indelible and widely discussed characters in modern literature, Frank Bascombe. Through Bascombe—protean, funny, profane, wise, often inappropriate—we've witnessed the aspirations, sorrows, longings, achievements and failings of an American life in the twilight of the twentieth century. Now, in *Let Me Be Frank with You*, Ford reinvents Bascombe in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. In four richly luminous narratives, Bascombe (and Ford) attempts to reconcile, interpret and console a world undone by calamity. It is a moving and wondrous and extremely funny odyssey through the America we live in at this moment. Ford is here again working with the maturity and brilliance of a writer at the absolute height of his powers. This trilogy of brilliant novels - *The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day*, and *The Lay of the Land* - that charts the life and times of one of the most beloved and enduring characters in modern fiction. When we meet Frank Bascombe in *The Sportswriter*, his unguarded voice instantly

wins us over and pulls us into a life that has been irrevocably changed by the loss of a marriage, a career, a child. We then follow Frank, ever brilliantly and hilariously observant, through *Independence Day* and *The Lay of the Land*, witnessing his fortune's rise and his family's fragmentation and reintegration. With finely honed prose and an eye that captures the most subtle nuances of the human condition in all its pathos, humour, beauty and strangeness, Richard Ford transforms Frank Bascombe's life into a riveting moving parable of life in America today. Robard Hewes has driven across the country in search of a woman named Buena who, twelve years ago, infused him with a feeling that has now turned into obsession. Sam Newel has travelled from Chicago seeking the missing piece of himself. They both find themselves on an uncharted hunting island in the Mississippi owned by an old man named Lamb. When these men converge on this strange land, each discovers the thing he's looking for yet triggers a conflagration of inevitable violence in this tense and brutal yet moving tale. In this National Book Award–winning novel from a “brilliantly breathtaking writer,” a young Southerner searches for meaning in the midst of Mardi Gras (*The New York Times Book Review*). On the cusp of his thirtieth birthday, Binx Bolling is a lost soul. A stockbroker and member of an established New Orleans family, Binx’s one escape is the movie theater that transports him from the falseness of his life. With Mardi Gras in full swing, Binx, along with his cousin Kate, sets out to find his true purpose amid the excesses of the carnival that surrounds him. Buoyant yet powerful, *The*

Moviegoer is a poignant indictment of modern values, and an unforgettable story of a week that will change two lives forever. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Walker Percy including rare photos from the author's estate. "Records the memories of a war in the words of those women courageous enough to walk into hell."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

A decade after America pulled out of Vietnam, the seeds of the often heart-wrenching oral history, *A Piece of My Heart*, were sown when writer and filmmaker Keith Walker met a woman who had been an emergency room nurse in Cu Chi and Da Nang. She and 25 others recount the time they spent "in country" as part of 15,000 American women who volunteered or served as nurses and in the military. NOTE: This edition does not include photographs. "The emotional current never falters."—*The New York Times Book Review*

Ros is dead. A bad actress but a tremendous lover, when she was alive her thighs pillowed cast members, crew, friends and acquaintances. Now Gerald's party continues around her murdered corpse (it is, after all, just the first of the night), as the guests indulge in drinking, flirting and jealousies, and the police make their brutal investigations. An evening of cocktails, sex and violence, Robert Coover's novel is a murder mystery as rousing and disorienting as the best drunken party, a vaudevillian masterpiece. Frank Bascombe is a sportswriter attempting to cope with his failed marriage and the death of his son. Unable to establish true connections with people, Bascombe drifts into and out of various relationships, but retains an introspective eye that

allows him to transcend life's obstacles. In this novel of menace and eroticism, Richard Ford updates the tradition of Conrad for the age of cocaine smuggling. The setting is Oaxaca, Mexico, where Harry Quinn has come to free his girlfriend's brother, Sonny, from jail and furthermore get him away from the suavely sadistic drug dealer who suspects Sonny of having cheated him. From the author of Fobbit: "A stirring, sardonic war story . . . Mordantly funny and harrowing . . . Reminiscent of such classic war novels as Catch-22" (Tampa Bay Times). A Military Times Best Book of 2017, Brave Deeds is a compelling novel of war, brotherhood, and America. Spanning eight hours, the novel follows a squad of six AWOL soldiers as they attempt to cross war-torn Baghdad on foot to attend the funeral of their leader, Staff Sergeant Rafe Morgan. As the men make their way to the funeral, they recall the most ancient of warriors yet are a microcosm of twenty-first-century America, and subject to the same human flaws as all of us. Drew is reliable in the field but unfaithful at home; Cheever, overweight and whining, is a friend to no one—least of all himself; and platoon commander Dmitri "Arrow" Arogapoulos is stalwart, yet troubled with questions about his own identity and sexuality. Emotionally resonant, true-to-life, and thoughtfully written, Brave Deeds is a gripping story of combat and of perseverance, and an important addition to the oeuvre of contemporary war fiction. "Earnest and affecting . . . The soldiers are foulmouthed, sex-obsessed and fiercely loyal for reasons they can't quite articulate—in other words, packed with young American male authenticity.

Abrams's prose is relaxed and conversational, with a few scattered literary nuggets that add heft, like chunks of beef in a vegetable soup. . . . The mash-up works, and Abrams's voice is clear and strong. —Brian Castner, *The Washington Post* “Outstanding . . . With a little bit of humor and bumbling grace, these six soldiers magnify what is both beautiful and despairing about the American military.” —Missoulia

From American master Richard Ford, a memoir: his first work of nonfiction, a stirring narrative of memory and parental love

How is it that we come to consider our parents as people with rich and intense lives that include but also exclude us? Richard Ford's parents—Edna, a feisty, pretty Catholic-school girl with a difficult past; and Parker, a sweet-natured, soft-spoken traveling salesman—were rural Arkansans born at the turn of the twentieth century. Married in 1928, they lived “alone together” on the road, traveling throughout the South. Eventually they had one child, born late, in 1944. For Ford, the questions of what his parents dreamed of, how they loved each other and loved him become a striking portrait of American life in the mid-century. Between Them is his vivid image of where his life began and where his parents' lives found their greatest satisfaction. Bringing his celebrated candor, wit, and intelligence to this most intimate and mysterious of landscapes—our parents' lives—the award-winning storyteller and creator of the iconic Frank Bascombe delivers an unforgettable exploration of memory, intimacy, and love. A landmark new collection of stories from Richard Ford that showcases his brilliance, sensitivity, and trademark wit and candor

In Sorry for Your Trouble, Pulitzer

Prize winner and New York Times-bestselling author Richard Ford enacts a stunning meditation on memory, love and loss. "Displaced" returns us to a young man's Mississippi adolescence, and to a shocking encounter with a young Irish immigrant who recklessly tries to solace the narrator's sorrow after his father's death. "Driving Up" follows an American woman's late-in-life journey to Canada to bid good-bye to a lost love now facing the end of this life. "The Run of Yourself," a novella, sees a New Orleans lawyer navigating the difficulties of living beyond his Irish wife's death. And "Nothing to Declare" follows a man and a woman's chance re-meeting in the New Orleans French Quarter, after twenty years, and their discovery of what's left of love for them. Typically rich with Ford's emotional lucidity and lyrical precision, *Sorry for Your Trouble* is a memorable collection from one of our greatest writers. After the universe is cast into chaos, an unlikely band of people must join together. With the help of the Archangel Gabriel, they must work to find the Four Horsemen and stop Lucifer's plan to rule over all life in the Universe. Can they stop his devious plot, or will the universe be cast into darkness from his corruption? With *The Sportswriter*, in 1985, Richard Ford began a cycle of novels that ten years later – after *Independence Day* won both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award – was hailed by *The Times of London* as "an extraordinary epic [that] is nothing less than the story of the twentieth century itself." Frank Bascombe's story resumes, in the fall of 2000, with the presidential election still hanging in the balance and Thanksgiving looming before

him with all the perils of a post-nuclear family get-together. He's now plying his trade as a realtor on the Jersey shore and contending with health, marital and familial issues that have his full attention: "all the ways that life seems like life at age fifty-five strewn around me like poppies." Richard Ford's first novel in over a decade: the funniest, most engaging (and explosive) book he's written, and a major literary event. "You're hooked, you feel every cut, grope up every cliff, swallow water with every spill of the canoe, sweat with every draw of the bowstring. Wholly absorbing [and] dramatic."—Harper's Magazine The setting is the Georgia wilderness, where the states most remote white-water river awaits. In the thundering froth of that river, in its echoing stone canyons, four men on a canoe trip discover a freedom and exhilaration beyond compare. And then, in a moment of horror, the adventure turns into a struggle for survival as one man becomes a human hunter who is offered his own harrowing deliverance. Praise for Deliverance "Once read, never forgotten."—Newport News Daily Press "A tour de force . . . How a man acts when shot by an arrow, what it feels like to scale a cliff or to capsize, the ironic psychology of fear: these things are conveyed with remarkable descriptive writing."—The New Republic "Freshly and intensely alive . . . with questions that haunt modern urban man."—Southern Review "A fine and honest book that hits the reader's mind with the sting of a baseball just caught in the hand."—The Nation "[James Dickey's] language has descriptive power not often matched in contemporary American writing."—Time "A harrowing trip few readers will

forget.”—*Asheville Citizen-Times* "A novel that will curl your toes . . . Dickey's canoe rides to the limits of dramatic tension."—*New York Times Book Review* "A brilliant and breathtaking adventure."—*The New Yorker* An introduction to the work of Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford includes excerpts from the novels *The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day*, and *Piece of My Heart*; "Communist," "Reunion," "Calling," and other short fiction; and the memoir "My Mother, in Memory." Original. 25,000 first printing. A quartet of masterful novellas that returns Richard Ford to the territory that sealed his reputation as an American master: the life of Frank Bascombe, hero of his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Independence Day*. Richard Ford introduced the world to his protean literary everyman, Frank Bascombe, aspiring novelist turned sportswriter turned real estate agent, in his 1986 masterpiece *The Sportswriter*. A lapidary account of the textures, sorrows and pleasures of one man's ordinary life, it laid the groundwork for the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Independence Day*, published in 1996, followed by the last novel in the Bascombe trilogy, *The Lay of the Land*, published in 2006. Over a period of twenty years, the Bascombe novels deepened a portrait of one of the most unforgettable characters in American fiction, and in so doing gave readers an indelible portrait of America. Now in *Let Me Be Frank With You*, Ford returns to the territory that established him as an Updike for the contemporary era, in a quartet of novella-length Bascombe stories, set in the aftermath and amid the calamitous circumstances of Hurricane Sandy. Of revisiting Bascombe, Ford says, "What

draws me to writing Frank Bascombe is what's always drawn me: he's funny (and it's thrilling to write things that are funny), but also he offers me the chance to write into the breach between what Henry James calls 'bliss and bale'; in my own way, to connect 'the things that help and the things that hurt' and to find some kind of reconciling vocabulary for both. I always think that, when I'm writing Frank Bascombe, I have the chance to write about the most important things I know, and that's always been irresistible." A moving, peerlessly funny odyssey through America and through the layered consciousness of one of its most compelling literary incarnations, the four stories in Let Me Be Frank With You bear Bascombe's unmistakable and now-famous imprint: a comic sensibility at odds with the minutiae of everyday human dismay and bewilderment; a plain-spoken acuity penetrating and expressing the shared wonder of modern existence; and a mordant relish and caution for all things American.

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