

Empire Falls Richard Russo

Chances Are Before You Know Kindness Grove The Old Man and The Sea Alas, Babylon Author Photo Bridge of Sighs The Risk Pool That Old Cape Magic Koniec Empire Falls The Noonday Demon Empire Falls Zánik Empire Falls Nobody's Fool Elsewhere The Misread City Practical Gods The Bridge of Sighs Empire Falls Trajectory Powder Burn Nobody's Fool Mohawk Then We Came to the End Ship of Fools The Whore's Child and Other Stories Empire Falls House of Sand and Fog America in Retreat A Healing Touch Everybody's Fool Super Host John Henry Days The Shipping News Straight Man Understanding Richard Russo A Study Guide for Richard Russo's "Empire Falls" The Whore's Child Sh*tshow The Destiny Thief

Chances Are

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize “Russo writes with a warm, vibrant humanity. A stirring mix of poignancy, drama and comedy.” —The Washington Post

Welcome to Empire Falls, a blue-collar town full of abandoned mills whose citizens surround themselves with the comforts and feuds provided by lifelong friends and neighbors and who find humor and hope in the most unlikely places, in this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Richard Russo. Miles Roby has been slinging burgers at the Empire Grill for 20 years, a job that cost him his college education and much of his self-respect. What keeps him there? It could be his bright, sensitive daughter Tick, who needs all his help surviving the local high school. Or maybe it’s Janine,

Miles' soon-to-be ex-wife, who's taken up with a noxiously vain health-club proprietor. Or perhaps it's the imperious Francine Whiting, who owns everything in town—and seems to believe that “everything” includes Miles himself. In *Empire Falls* Richard Russo delves deep into the blue-collar heart of America in a work that overflows with hilarity, heartache, and grace.

Before You Know Kindness

A New York Times 2016 Notable Book An immediate national best seller and instant classic from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls*. Richard Russo returns to North Bath—“a town where dishonesty abounds, everyone misapprehends everyone else and half the citizens are half-crazy” (*The New York Times*)—and the characters who made *Nobody's Fool* a beloved choice of book clubs everywhere. *Everybody's Fool* is classic Russo, filled with humor, heart, hard times, and people you can't help but love, possibly because their various faults make them so human. *Everybody's Fool* picks up roughly a decade since we were last with Miss Beryl and Sully on New Year's Eve 1984. The irresistible Sully, who in the intervening years has come by some unexpected good fortune, is staring down a VA cardiologist's estimate that he has only a year or two left, and it's hard work trying to keep this news from the most important people in his life: Ruth, the married woman he carried on with for years . . . the ultra-hapless Rub Squeers, who worries that he and Sully aren't still best friends . . . Sully's son and

grandson, for whom he was mostly an absentee figure (and now a regretful one). We also enjoy the company of Doug Raymer, the chief of police who's obsessing primarily over the identity of the man his wife might've been about to run off with, before dying in a freak accident . . . Bath's mayor, the former academic Gus Moynihan, whose wife problems are, if anything, even more pressing . . . and then there's Carl Roebuck, whose lifelong run of failing upward might now come to ruin. And finally, there's Charice Bond—a light at the end of the tunnel that is Chief Raymer's office—as well as her brother, Jerome, who might well be the train barreling into the station. A crowning achievement—"like hopping on the last empty barstool surrounded by old friends" (Entertainment Weekly)—from one of the greatest storytellers of our time.

Grove

Hilarious and true-to-life, witty, compassionate, and impossible to put down, *Straight Man* follows Hank Devereaux through one very bad week in this novel from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo. William Henry Devereaux, Jr., is the reluctant chairman of the English department of a badly underfunded college in the Pennsylvania rust belt. Devereaux's reluctance is partly rooted in his character--he is a born anarchist--and partly in the fact that his department is more savagely divided than the Balkans. In the course of a single week, Devereaux will have his nose mangled by an angry colleague, imagine his wife is having an affair with his

dean, wonder if a curvaceous adjunct is trying to seduce him with peach pits, and threaten to execute a goose on local television. All this while coming to terms with his philandering father, the dereliction of his youthful promise, and the ominous failure of certain vital body functions. In short, *Straight Man* is classic Russo—side-splitting, poignant, compassionate, and unforgettable.

The Old Man and The Sea

Winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. *Practical Gods* is the eighth collection by Carl Dennis, a critically acclaimed poet and recent winner of one of the most prestigious poetry awards, the Ruth Lilly Prize. Carl Dennis has won acclaim for "wise, original, and often deeply moving" poems that "ease the reader out of accustomed modes of seeing and perceiving" (*The New York Times*). Many of the poems in this new book involve an attempt to enter into dialogue with pagan and biblical perspectives, to throw light on ordinary experience through metaphor borrowed from religious myth and to translate religious myth into secular terms. While making no claims to put us in touch with some ultimate reality, these clear, precise, sensitive poems help us to pay homage to the everyday household gods that are easy to ignore, the gods that sustain life and make it rewarding.

Alas, Babylon

A Miami hit-and-run witness winds up as bait for drug

smugglers—in an “explosive” novel cowritten by the New York Times–bestselling author of *Bad Monkey* (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution). Chris Meadows’s charmed life as an up-and-coming architect in Coconut Grove has kept him far removed from Miami’s bloody drug trade. But his comfortable existence comes crashing down around him when Chris witnesses the hit-and-run death of an ex-girlfriend by a car full of drug smuggling gangsters. Now caught up in southern Florida’s brutal underground cocaine war, Meadows is in a fight for his life—to evade not only the hit men seeking to silence him, but also the crooked Miami cops who would rather exploit than protect him. This is the very first suspense thriller written by the New York Times–bestselling author of *Razor Girl* and *Sick Puppy* and Bill Montalbano, a writing team praised for its “fine flair for characters and settings” (Library Journal). Those who enjoy Hiaasen’s other Florida thrillers, the Doc Ford novels by Randy Wayne White, or Netflix’s *Narcos* will want to discover these early crime fiction gems.

Author Photo

A collection of two hundred of the photographer's most significant author portraits includes those of such writers as John Irving, Joyce Carol Oates, Truman Capote, Cormac McCarthy, and Gloria Naylor. 20,000 first printing.

Bridge of Sighs

A recently bereaved woman takes walks in an Italian village, reflecting on loss and the Italy of her youth.

The Risk Pool

For Griffin, all paths, all memories, converge at Cape Cod. The Cape is where he took his childhood summer vacations, where he and his wife, Joy, honeymooned, where they decided he'd leave his LA screenwriting job to become a college professor, and where they celebrated the marriage of their daughter Laura's best friend. But when their beloved Laura's wedding takes place a year later, Griffin is caught between chauffeuring his mother's and father's ashes in two urns and contending with Joy and her large, unruly family. Both he and she have also brought dates along. How in the world could this have happened? By turns hilarious, rueful, and uplifting, *That Old Cape Magic* is a profoundly involving novel about marriage, family, and all the other ties that bind. From the Trade Paperback edition.

That Old Cape Magic

This new and necessary book ? a collection of author profiles, literary journalism, and speculative pieces about the Southland's writing and publishing scene ? aims to capture the Southern California of here and now. We want to get at the Los Angeles that came after the gumshoes, the wisecracking Englishmen, after the Boosters, the Beats, and the boozers, after the despairing heroines of Joan Didion and the coked-up rich kids of Bret Easton Ellis. What is literary Los

Angeles about now? Do these old templates survive, the way Hawthorne's Puritans still echo through the fiction of New England and Cooper's frontiersmen still stalk the literature of the mountain West? Without ignoring the city's rich past, we have tried to focus on the present-living writers active in the final decade of the last century and the first few years of the new one. One guiding conviction is that the literary arts have taken their own shape in Southern California; from its poetry to its pulp fiction, a shape that often baffles its Eastern and British visitorsContributors include: Brendan Bernhard, Wanda Coleman, Jenny Factor, David Fine, Kate Gale, Lynell George, Peter Gilstrap, Laurence Goldstein, Pico Iyer, Ken Kelley, David Kipen, Ron Koertge, Suzanne Lummis, Susan Moffat, John Powers, David St. John, Sara Scribner, Paul Skenazy, Timothy Steele, Ariel Swartley, David L. Ulin, Amy Uyematsu, Gina Valdes, Marcos M. Villatoro, Charles Harper Webb, Chrissy Yost.

Koniec Empire Falls

A Vintage Shorts Short Story original. David and Ellie didn't realize how much they have missed their friends, two other couples who had moved out of their modest neighborhood in a desert city for the comforts of the suburbs, until the day of Donald Trump's election. Separated also from their daughter who lived hours away in California, they were in a funk. But, when Ellie discovers a repellent offering floating in the small Jacuzzi in their backyard, David is blindsided. Little does he know this is but the first in a chain of grisly events that would play out in their lives

with devastating consequences. In this darkly humorous, incisive and absorbing political parable, written with the remarkable humanity he's beloved for with countless fans, Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Russo probes how deeply, yet imperceptibly, fissures can form amongst friends, neighbors, and families. An ebook short.

The Noonday Demon

The National Book Award finalist and debut novel by the bestselling author of *The Dinner Party*: "A readymade classic of the office-novel genre. . . . A truly affecting novel about work, trust, love, and loneliness." --Seattle Times No one knows us quite the same way as the men and women who sit beside us in department meetings and crowd the office refrigerator with their labeled yogurts. Every office is a family of sorts, and the ad agency Joshua Ferris brilliantly depicts in his debut novel is family at its strangest and best, coping with a business downturn in the time-honored way: through gossip, pranks, and increasingly frequent coffee breaks. With a demon's eye for the details that make life worth noticing, Joshua Ferris tells a true and funny story about survival in life's strangest environment--the one we pretend is normal five days a week.

Empire Falls

A wonderfully funny, perceptive novel *The Risk Pool* is set in Mohawk, New York, where Ned Hall is doing his best to grow up, even though neither of his estranged

parents can properly be called adult. His father, Sam, cultivates bad habits so assiduously that he is stuck at the bottom of his auto insurance risk pool. His mother, Jenny, is slowly going crazy from resentment at a husband who refuses either to stay or to stay away. As Ned veers between allegiances to these grossly inadequate role models, Richard Russo gives us a book that overflows with outsized characters and outlandish predicaments and whose vision of family is at once irreverent and unexpectedly moving. In the traditions of Thornton Wilder and Anne Tyler, *The Risk Pool* was hailed by *The New York Times* as "...superbly original and maliciously funny. Russo proves himself a master at evoking the sights, feelings, and smells of a town."

Zánik Empire Falls

A debut collection of short stories from Pulitzer-Prize winner Russo abounds with bittersweet humor and a deep knowledge of human nature.

Nobody's Fool

After a decade of spending a delightful summer week at their country house in New Hampshire, the members of the extended Seton family are confronted by a terrible accident, testing the values and relationships that hold them together.

Elsewhere

Mohawk, New York, is one of those small towns that

lie almost entirely on the wrong side of the tracks. Its citizens, too, have fallen on hard times. Dallas Younger, a star athlete in high school, now drifts from tavern to poker game, losing money, and, inevitably, another set of false teeth. His ex-wife, Anne, is stuck in a losing battle with her mother over the care of her sick father. And their son, Randall, is deliberately neglecting his school work--because in a place like Mohawk it doesn't pay to be too smart. In Mohawk, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Richard Russo, explores these lives with profound compassion and flint-hard wit. Out of derailed ambitions and old loves, secret hatreds and communal myths, he has created a richly plotted, densely populated, and wonderfully written novel that captures every nuance of America's backyard.

The Misread City

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION Miles Roby has been slinging burgers at the Empire Grill for 20 years, a job that cost him his college education and much of his self-respect. What keeps him there? It could be his bright, sensitive daughter Tick, who needs all his help surviving the local high school. Or maybe it's Janine, Miles' soon-to-be ex-wife, who's taken up with a noxiously vain health-club proprietor. Or perhaps it's the imperious Francine Whiting, who owns everything in town - and seems to believe that 'everything' includes Miles himself. In Empire Falls Richard Russo delves deep into the blue-collar heart of America in a work that overflows with hilarity, heartache, and grace.

Practical Gods

A Study Guide for Richard Russo's "Empire Falls," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

The Bridge of Sighs

"It turns out that Russo the nonfiction writer is a lot like Russo the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist. He is affably disagreeable, wry, idiosyncratic, vulnerably bighearted, a craftsman of lubricated sentences."—Jay Fielden, New York Times Book Review A master of the novel, short story, and memoir, the best-selling and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Everybody's Fool* now gives us his very first collection of personal essays, ranging throughout writing and reading and living. In these nine essays, Richard Russo provides insight into his life as a writer, teacher, friend, and reader. From a commencement speech he gave at Colby College, to the story of how an oddly placed toilet made him reevaluate the purpose of humor in art and life, to a comprehensive analysis of Mark Twain's value, to his harrowing journey accompanying a dear friend as she pursued gender-reassignment surgery, *The Destiny Thief* reflects the broad interests and experiences of one of America's most beloved authors. Warm, funny, wise, and poignant, the essays included here traverse

Russo's writing life, expanding our understanding of who he is and how his singular, incredibly generous mind works. An utter joy to read, they give deep insight into the creative process from the perspective of one of our greatest writers.

Empire Falls

"The world is tipping into chaos. Why? a In this acclaimed and influential book, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Bret Stephens shows how the retreat of American power, orchestrated by Barack Obama, has created the power vacuums now being filled by our enemies. From Vladimir Putin's quest to restore the old czarist empire, to China's efforts to dominate the South China Sea, to Iran's nuclear ambitions, to ISIS's dreams of an Islamic caliphate, we have entered an era in which our foes no longer fear us and our friends no longer trust us. a With his stylistic flair and analytical brilliance, Stephens explains the ideological roots of Obama's suspicions of American power. He demonstrates how a false belief in American decline has led to a disastrous prescription of retreat, as if the cure for domestic weakness is international weakness. In a prophetic chapter, he warns of what the world could look like in 2019 if we do not change course. And he lays out the right formula for U.S. foreign policy-the same formula that brought order to our once crime-ridden streets. a America in Retreat is shaping the greatest foreign policy debate of our decade. 'An exceptionally intelligent, well-written book filled with interesting data and analysis that's well worth reading-and I don't even agree with most

of it. Stephens (is) fast becoming the most influential conservative writer on foreign policy. So read it to your delight, or to hone your best arguments against it.'aFareed Zakaria,aFareed Zakaria GPSa 'An important book for your well-being.'aBill O'Reilly,aThe O'Reilly Factor'This book is theaWall Street Journalacolumnist at his best- substantive, historically informed, and with the kind of cutting style that helped him earn his Pulitzer Prize two years ago.'aThe Weekly Standard'Bret Stephens has written not just a good book on American foreign policy. He has written an important book . . . Anyone even minimally conversant with human nature and history - and Mr. Stephens is far more than that - understands exactly the dangers that are caused by an American Retreat and the lethal global disorder it makes inevitable.'aThe American Spectator'With a command of American history, a mastery of big foreign policy ideas, and a supple grasp of the conundrums of current events, Stephens shows that the dichotomy between domestic and international responsibilities is facile. For the world's sole superpower, international affairs inevitably impinge on our economy and our security. Defending our principles abroad advances our interests at home.' Peter Berkowitz,aReal Clear Politics'Given the U.S.'s recently renewed commitments in the Middle East, Stephens's clear, convincing apologia for American power will make especially timely reading for American foreign policy's skeptics and opponents.'aPublishers Weekly, Starred Review'A provocative, carefully reasoned argument, anat

Trajectory

This slyly funny, moving novel about a blue-collar town in upstate New York—and in the life of Sully, of one of its unluckiest citizens, who has been doing the wrong thing triumphantly for fifty years—is a classic American story. Divorced from his own wife and carrying on halfheartedly with another man's, saddled with a bum knee and friends who make enemies redundant, Sully now has one new problem to cope with: a long-estranged son who is in imminent danger of following in his father's footsteps. With its uproarious humor and a heart that embraces humanity's follies as well as its triumphs, *Nobody's Fool*, from Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Richard Russo, is storytelling at its most generous. *Nobody's Fool* was made into a movie starring Paul Newman, Bruce Willis, Jessica Tandy, and Melody Griffith.

Powder Burn

After sixty years of living in the upstate New York town of Thomaston, Louis Charles and his wife of forty years, Sarah, prepare for a trip to Italy to visit Louis' childhood friend, an artist who had fled his hometown many years earlier.

Nobody's Fool

To this irresistible debut collection of short stories, Richard Russo brings the same bittersweet wit, deep knowledge of human nature, and spellbinding narrative gifts that distinguish his best-selling novels.

His themes are the imperfect bargains of marriage; the discoveries and disillusionments of childhood; the unwinnable battles men and women insist on fighting with the past. A cynical Hollywood moviemaker confronts his dead wife's lover and abruptly realizes the depth of his own passion. As his parents' marriage disintegrates, a precocious fifth-grader distracts himself with meditations on baseball, spaghetti, and his place in the universe. And in the title story, an elderly nun enters a college creative writing class and plays havoc with its tidy notions of fact and fiction. *The Whore's Child* is further proof that Russo is one of the finest writers we have, unsparingly truthful yet hugely compassionate and capable of creating characters real that they seem to step off the page.

Mohawk

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Underground Railroad* Colson Whitehead's triumphant novel is on one level a multifaceted retelling of the story of John Henry, the black steel-driver who died outracing a machine designed to replace him. On another level it's the story of a disaffected, middle-aged black journalist on a mission to set a record for junketeering who attends the annual John Henry Days festival. It is also a high-velocity thrill ride through the tunnel where American legend gives way to American pop culture, replete with p. r. flacks, stamp collectors, blues men, and turn-of-the-century song pluggers. *John Henry Days* is an acrobatic, intellectually dazzling, and laugh-out-loud funny book that will be read and talked about for

years to come.

Then We Came to the End

The author offers a look at depression, drawing on his own battle with the illness and interviews with fellow sufferers, researchers, and doctors to assess the disease's complexities, causes, symptoms, and available therapies.

Ship of Fools

Following the best-selling *Everybody's Fool*, a new collection of short fiction that demonstrates that Richard Russo--winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Empire Falls*--is also a master of this genre. Russo's characters in these four expansive stories bear little similarity to the blue-collar citizens we're familiar with from many of his novels. In "Horseman," a professor confronts a young plagiarist as well as her own weaknesses as the Thanksgiving holiday looms closer and closer: "And after that, who knew?" In "Intervention," a realtor facing an ominous medical prognosis finds himself in his father's shadow while he presses forward--or not. In "Voice," a semiretired academic is conned by his increasingly estranged brother into coming along on a group tour of the Venice Biennale, fleeing a mortifying incident with a traumatized student back in Massachusetts but encountering further complications in the maze of Venice. And in "Milton and Marcus," a lapsed novelist struggles with his wife's illness and tries to rekindle his screenwriting career, only to be stymied by the

pratfalls of that trade when he's called to an aging, iconic star's mountaintop retreat in Wyoming. From the Hardcover edition.

The Whore's Child and Other Stories

From the author of New York Times bestseller *The Tourist* It's August, 1948, three years after the Russians "liberated" the nation from German Occupation. But the Red Army still patrols the capital's rubble-strewn streets, and the ideals of the Revolution are but memories. Twenty-two-year-old Detective Emil Brod finally gets his chance to serve his country, investigating murder for the People's Militia. The first victim is a state songwriter, but the facts point to a political motive. Emil would like to investigate further, but his colleagues in Homicide are suspicious or silent: He is on his own in this new, dangerous world. *The Bridge of Sighs* launches a unique series of crime novels featuring a cast of characters in an ever-evolving landscape, the politically volatile terrain of Eastern Europe in the second half of the 20th century. *The Bridge of Sighs* is a 2004 Edgar Award Nominee for Best First Novel.

Empire Falls

The classic apocalyptic novel that stunned the world.

House of Sand and Fog

Three sixty-six-year old men convene on Martha's Vineyard, friends ever since meeting in college. Each

man holds his own secrets, in addition to the monumental mystery that none of them has ever stopped puzzling over since a Memorial Day weekend right here on the Vineyard in 1971

America in Retreat

Home to generations of humans, the starship Argonos has wandered aimlessly throughout the galaxy for hundreds of years, desperately searching for other signs of life. Now, a steady, unidentified transmission lures them toward a nearby planet, where the grisly remains of a former colony await the crew. Haunted by what they have seen, the crew has no choice but to follow when another signal beckons the Argonos into deep space—and into the dark heart of an alien mystery “[Russo] is not afraid to take on the question of evil in a divinely ordered universe This is an ambitious novel of ideas that generates considerable suspense while respecting its sources, its characters, and most important, the reader.”—The New York Times “A tale of high adventure and personal drama in the far future.”—Library Journal “Relentlessly suspenseful full of mystery very exciting.”—Science Fiction Chronicle

A Healing Touch

Understanding Richard Russo explores the significant themes and patterns in this contemporary American author’s seven novels, a memoir, and two short story collections, including the 2002 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Empire Falls*. Known for assembling large casts

of eccentric characters and sweeping multi-generational storylines, Russo brings to life hard-hit rural manufacturing towns and their inhabitants even as he explores the bewildering, painful complexities of family relationships. This critical study by Kathleen Drowne first recounts Russo's biography, then explores his novels chronologically, and ends with a chapter dedicated to his other works. Drowne invites readers to appreciate more fully Russo's evocative portrayals of hardscrabble working-class life in failing rural towns of the Northeast by identifying major themes and patterns present in Russo's work. In *Mohawk*, *The Risk Pool*, *Nobody's Fool*, *Empire Falls* and *Bridge of Sighs*, readers can see the primary recurring theme of Russo's work: the plight of deteriorating rural communities and the dramatic impact of that decline on their blue-collar inhabitants. A second important theme in Russo's fiction is the complicated relationship between emotionally scarred sons and their abusive, absent, or neglectful fathers; such relationships fuel the narratives of *The Risk Pool*, *Nobody's Fool*, *Empire Falls*, *Bridge of Sighs*, and *That Old Cape Magic*. Russo also utilizes large casts of realistic but highly eccentric characters—worn-out shopkeepers and odd-jobbers, alcoholics, invalids, and ne'er-do-wells—whose lives are emblematic of both the dignity and the desperation of crumbling Rust Belt towns. Russo possesses, as one New York Times reviewer commented, "that wonderfully unfashionable gift for effortless storytelling on a sweeping, multigenerational scale," which undoubtedly cements his place among his contemporaries in modern American literature. Drowne offers readers an insightful point of entrance

into Russo's body of work to date.

Everybody's Fool

Presents a personal account of the author's youth, his parents, and the 1950s upstate New York town they struggled to escape, recounting the encroaching poverty and illness that challenged everyday life and the dreams his mother instilled that inspired his career.

Super Host

The Classics

John Henry Days

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News* is a vigorous, darkly comic, and at times magical portrait of the contemporary North American family. Quoyle, a third-rate newspaper hack, with a "head shaped like a crenshaw, no neck, reddish hairfeatures as bunched as kissed fingertips," is wrenched violently out of his workaday life when his two-timing wife meets her just desserts. An aunt convinces Quoyle and his two emotionally disturbed daughters to return with her to the starkly beautiful coastal landscape of their ancestral home in Newfoundland. Here, on desolate Quoyle's Point, in a house empty except for a few mementos of the family's unsavory past, the battered members of three generations try to cobble up new lives. Newfoundland is a country of coast and cove where

the mercury rarely rises above seventy degrees, the local culinary delicacy is cod cheeks, and it's easier to travel by boat and snowmobile than on anything with wheels. In this harsh place of cruel storms, a collapsing fishery, and chronic unemployment, the aunt sets up as a yacht upholsterer in nearby Killick-Claw, and Quoyle finds a job reporting the shipping news for the local weekly, the Gammy Bird (a paper that specializes in sexual-abuse stories and grisly photos of car accidents). As the long winter closes its jaws of ice, each of the Quoyles confronts private demons, reels from catastrophe to minor triumph—in the company of the obsequious Mavis Bangs; Diddy Shovel the strongman; drowned Herald Prowse; cane-twirling Beety; Nutbeem, who steals foreign news from the radio; a demented cousin the aunt refuses to recognize; the much-zippered Alvin Yark; silent Wavey; and old Billy Pretty, with his bag of secrets. By the time of the spring storms Quoyle has learned how to gut cod, to escape from a pickle jar, and to tie a true lover's knot.

The Shipping News

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Richard Russo and five other Maine authors here prove that the close of life need not be filled with darkness, when hospice help is at hand. These writers recount intensely personal and profoundly moving end-of-life accounts that cover a wide spectrum of human experience. All six authors are donating their royalties to a Maine hospice; Down East will also donate 10 percent of proceeds to the same cause.

Straight Man

Understanding Richard Russo

A Study Guide for Richard Russo's "Empire Falls"

Miles Roby has been slinging burgers at the Empire Grill for 20 years, a job that cost him his college education and much of his self-respect. What keeps him there? It could be his bright, sensitive daughter Tick, who needs all his help surviving high school. Or maybe it's Janine, Miles' soon-to-be ex-wife, who's taken up with a noxiously vain health-club proprietor. Or perhaps it's the imperious Francine Whiting, who owns everything in town and seems to believe that 'everything' includes Miles himself. In *Empire Falls* Richard Russo delves deep into the blue-collar heart of America in a work that overflows with hilarity, heartache, and grace.

The Whore's Child

A deeply funny and shrewdly observed debut novel about being lost in the very place you know by heart. Bennett Driscoll is a Turner Prize-nominated artist who was once a rising star. Now, at age 55, his wife has left him, he hasn't sold a painting in two years, and hasn't been reviewed in five. His gallery wants to stop selling his work, claiming they'll have more value retrospectively when he's dead. So, left with a large

West London home and no income, he's forced to move into his artist's studio in the back garden and rent out his house on the popular vacation rental site, AirBed. A stranger now in his own home, money is finally coming in again and Bennett is getting some of the best reviews of his career, albeit on AirBed. But with his daughter Mia off at art school and any new relationships fizzling out at best, he struggles to find purpose in his day-to-day. That all changes when three different guests--lonely American Alicia; tortured artist Emma; and cautiously optimistic divorcee Kirstie--unwittingly unlock the pieces of himself that have been lost to him for too long. Warm, witty, and utterly humane, Super Host offers a captivating portrait middle age, relationships, and what it truly means to take a new chance at life.

Sh*tshow

Właściciel Empire Grill w Empire Falls, Maine ma mnóstwo kłopotów z rodziną, ale co tak naprawdę zamierza Pani Whiting z młynu?

The Destiny Thief

The National Book Award finalist, Oprah's Book Club pick, #1 New York Times bestseller and basis for the Oscar-nominated motion picture A recent immigrant from the Middle East—a former colonel in the Iranian Air Force—yearns to restore his family's dignity in California. A recovering alcoholic and addict down on her luck struggles to hold onto the one thing she has left?her home. And her lover, a married cop, is driven

to extremes to win her love. Andre Dubus III's unforgettable characters—people with ordinary flaws, looking for a small piece of ground to stand on—careen toward inevitable conflict. Their tragedy paints a shockingly true picture of the country we live in today.

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