



© Sandrine Roudeix/Opale/Éditions de l'Olivier

Richard Ford

USA

Richard Ford :

The author

Richard Ford was born in Jackson, Mississippi in 1944. He has published six novels and four collections of stories, including *The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day*, *A Multitude of Sins* and, most recently, *The Lay of the Land*. *Independence Day* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, the first time the same book had won both prizes. Richard Ford lives in Maine.

L'œuvre

Novels :

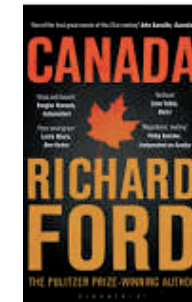
- Canada* (Bloomsbury, 2012)
- The Lay of the Land* (Bloomsbury, 2006)
- Independence Day* (Bloomsbury, 1995)
- Wildlife* (Bloomsbury, 1990)
- The Sportswriter* (Bloomsbury, 1986)
- The Ultimate Good Luck* (Bloomsbury, 1981)
- A Piece of My Heart* (Bloomsbury, 1976)

Story collections :

- Vintage Ford* (Vintage, 2004)
- A Multitude of Sins* (Bloomsbury, 2002)
- Women with Men: Three Stories* (Bloomsbury, 1997)
- Rock Springs* (Bloomsbury, 1987)

Zoom

Canada, Bloomsbury, 2012



First, I'll tell about the robbery our parents committed. Then the murders, which happened later.

In 1956, Dell Parsons' family came to a stop in Great Falls, Montana, the way many military families did after the war. His father, Bev, was a talkative airman from Alabama with an optimistic and easy-scheming nature. Their mother Neeva – shy, artistic – was alienated from their father's small-town world. It was more out of bad instincts and bad luck that Dell's parents decided to rob the bank. They weren't reckless people. In the days following the arrest, Dell is saved before the authorities 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 a border.

In *Canada*, Richard Ford has created a masterpiece. A visionary novel of vast landscapes, complex identities and fragile humanity. It questions the fine line between the normal and the extraordinary, and the moments that haunt our settled view of the world.

La presse

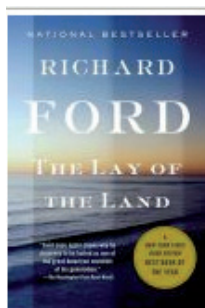
« But *Canada* is blessed with two essential strengths in equal measure — a mesmerizing story driven by authentic and fully realized characters, and a prose style so accomplished it is tempting to read each sentence two or three times before being pulled to the next. »

Andre Dubus III, *New-York Times*

« Richard Ford's triumphant novel explores the impact of parental foolishness on a son's life. »

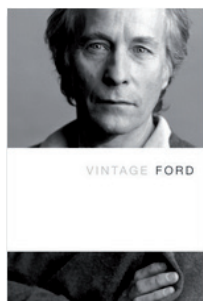
Sean O'Hagan, *The Observer*

The Lay of the Land (Bloomsbury, 2006)



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 postnuclear-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.

Vintage Ford (Vintage, 2004)



Vintage Readers are a perfect introduction to some of the great modern writers presented in attractive, accessible paperback editions.

“One of the country’s best writers. . . . No one looks harder at contemporary American life, sees more, or expresses it with such hushed, deliberate care.” — **San Francisco Chronicle**

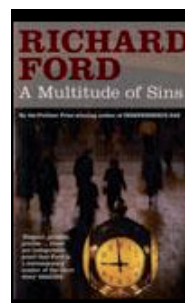
An accomplished practitioner of the short story and the «Babe Ruth of novelists,» (**Washington Post Book World**)

Richard Ford is the first writer to receive both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award for a single book, his 1995 novel *Independence Day*.

Vintage Ford includes an excerpt from that novel, along with the stories “Communist,” and “Rock Springs” from his collection *Rock Springs*; “Reunion,” and “Calling,” from *A Multitude of Sins*, which won him the 2001 PEN/Malamud Award; “The Womanizer,” from *Women with Men*.

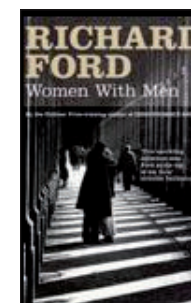
Also included, for the first time in book form, the memoir, “My Mother, in Memory.”

A Multitude of Sins (Bloomsbury, 2002)



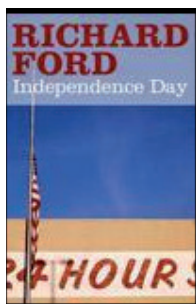
With perhaps his fiercest intensity to date, Richard Ford, America’s most unflinching chronicler of modern life, is drawn to amorous relationships inside, out and to the sides of marriage. In these extraordinary stories all human relations, our entire sense of right and wrong, are put into vivid and unforgettable play.

Women with Men: Three Stories (Bloomsbury, 1997)



Three outstanding novellas, depicting with a heartwrenching honesty the limits of human love. Against settings that range from the alleyways of Paris to the northern plains of Montana and the suburbs of Chicago, Richard Ford dramatises the impasses and abysses that exist in all romantic relationships. Capturing men and women at defining moments of truth – whether during seismic arguments, or simply in the course of everyday life – Ford affirms yet again his reputation as one of the great American writers of our time.

Independence Day (Bloomsbury, 1995)



After the disintegration of his family, the ruin of his career and an affair with a much younger woman, Frank Bascombe decides that the surest route to a 'normal' American life is to become an estate agent in Haddam, New Jersey. Frank blunders through the suburban citadels of the Eastern Seaboard and avoids engaging in life until the sudden, cataclysmic events of a Fourth-of-July weekend with his son jolt him back.

Wildlife (Bloomsbury, 1990)



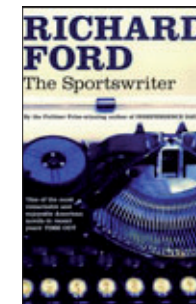
In the autumn of 1960, Joe Brinson and his parents move to the edge of the Rocky Mountains to cash in on the promise of the American frontier, to seize a future as broad as the sweep of the Montana prairies. But when Joe's father leaves home to fight the forest fires that have raged since the summer, and his mother meets an older man, Joe finds his life changing too suddenly, blazing into unrecognisable pieces like the forests surrounding them.

Rock Springs (Bloomsbury, 1987)



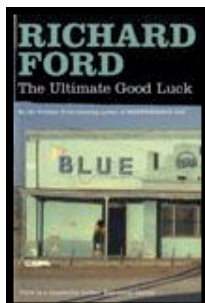
In these ten stories, Ford mines literary gold from the wind-scrubbed landscape of the American West – and from the guarded hopes and gnawing loneliness of the people who live there. A refugee from justice driving across Wyoming with his daughter; an unhappy girlfriend and a stolen Mercedes; a boy watching 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.

The Sportswriter (Bloomsbury, 1986)



At dawn on Good Friday every year, Frank Bascombe and his wife meet to pay their respects at the grave of their firstborn. This year Frank plans to spend the Easter weekend with a new girlfriend while on assignment for his magazine. What might have been an idyllic adventure becomes a succession of calamities that extinguish almost all the carefully nourished equilibrium of a man grappling with the failure of love and the death of his son. The end and the aftermath of a marriage, the emotional dislocation and the discovery of a new life while in the embrace of troubled memories of the old have seldom been more harrowingly plotted.

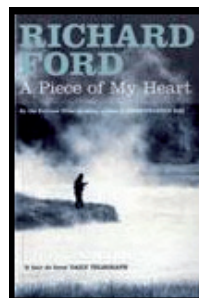
The Ultimate Good Luck (Bloomsbury, 1981)



Harry Quinn and his girlfriend Rae head to Oaxaca, Mexico, to spring Rae's brother Sunny from jail and protect him from the sinister drug dealer he is suspected of having double-crossed. But instead of a simple jailbreak, Harry and Rae fall into a nightmarish

series of entanglements with expat whores and Zapotec Indians. The Cocaine Era's answer to Graham Greene, this exquisitely choreographed novel tracks Rae's and Harry's inexorable descent into the Mexican underworld, where only a stroke of ultimate good luck can keep them alive.

A Piece of My Heart (Bloomsbury, 1976)



Robard Hughes has raced across the country in pursuit of a woman, and Sam Newell is hunting for the missing part of himself. On an uncharted island on the Mississippi, both these godless pilgrims find what they have been searching for in an explosion of shocking violence. The novel that

launched the career of one of America's late-twentieth-century masters, *A Piece of My Heart* is a tour de force that does justice to Ford's diverse literary gifts: his unerring eye for detail, his pitch-perfect ear for dialogue, and his sharp understanding of human nature.