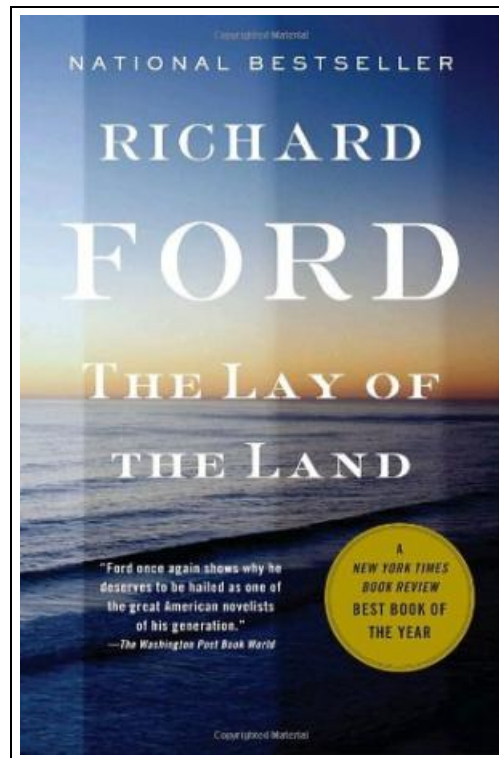


Lay of the Land



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Reviews

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(Destini Muller)

LAY OF THE LAND



Vintage. 1 Paperback(s), 2006. soft. Book Condition: New. (A finalist for the 2006 National Book Critics Circle Award and a New York Times Best Book of the Year) Following Independence Day, this third novel of the cycle rejoins Frank Bascombe as the 2000 presidential election hangs in the balance and Thanksgiving looms before him, with all the attendant perils of a post-nuclear family get-together. Still a realtor but now living on the Jersey shore, Frank at 55 has entered what he terms the "Permanent Period" of his life, and finds it is made of disparate bits and pieces "strewn around me like poppies." Protean, funny, profane, wise, often inappropriate, Frank is the American everyman who tells his story in three brilliant novels by Richard Ford that also include *The Sportswriter* (a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award) and the Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award winner *Independence Day*. "With a mastery second to none, Richard Ford has created a character we know as well as our next-door neighbors," wrote the *New York Times Book Review*. "Frank Bascombe has earned himself a place beside Willy Loman and Harry Angstrom in our literary landscape, but he has done so with a wry wit and a fin de siècle wisdom that is very much his own." My great book of the year was Richard Ford's *The Lay of the Land*, his *Ulysses*, a long, painstakingly attentive, humanely comical celebration of the mid-life of his New Jersey real-estate salesman, Frank Bascombe, an American citizen at odds with, and at home in, America, whose story, so wonderfully written in every breath of every sentence, will teach you how to lead a well-examined life 'on the human scale' and how to leave it." *Guardian* (London) 485.



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