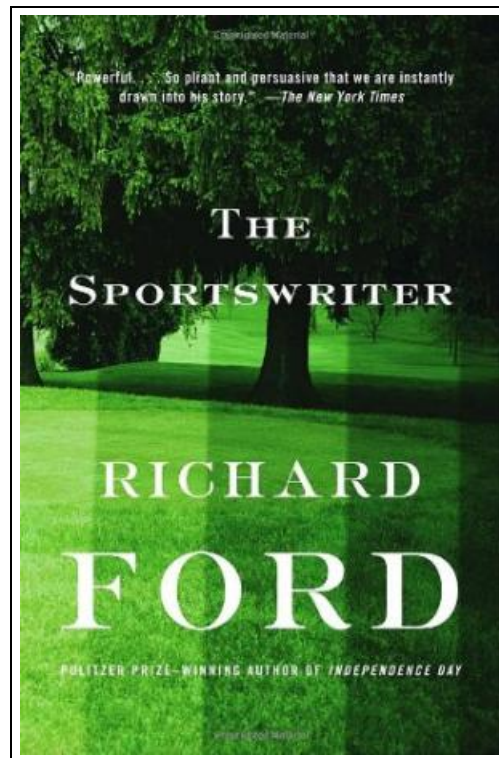


## The Sportswriter



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Vintage. 1 Paperback(s), 1995. soft. Book Condition: New. (Finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award) We first meet Frank Bascombe in this 1986 novel. As a sportswriter, he makes his living studying peoplemen, mostly who live entirely within themselves. This is a condition that Frank himself aspires to. But at 38, 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 this moving novel transpires, Frank will end up losing the remnants of his familiar life, though with his spirits soaring. 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 *Independence Day* (the winner of both a Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award) and *The Lay of the Land* (a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award). "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." Ralph Bascombe, the brooding antihero here, is not a Walter Matthaustyle, cigar-smoking sportswriter. Rather he resembles John Updike's *Rabbit Angstrom* (sans cynicism). Bascombe has decided in his 'mid-life crisis' years to write heartwarming articles for a glossy sports magazine, and in the literal world of sportswriting, he has found a way to avoid life's 'searing regret' without sacrificing its mysteries. In fact, Ralph is comfortable all around, living an ordinary, invisible existence in the 'muted and adaptable' landscape of a New Jersey suburb. He has...

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