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## Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book

By Richard Ford



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**Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book** By Richard Ford

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.



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## Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book By Richard Ford Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #36782 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-11-04
- Released on: 2014-11-04
- Format: Kindle eBook

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**An Amazon Best Book of the Month, November 2014:** It's been eight years since we last saw Frank Bascombe, successfully selling real estate in New Jersey, easing into his mid-50s at the conclusion of Richard Ford's celebrated trilogy (*The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day*, and *The Lay of the Land*). Ford clearly had more to say about his man Frank. In the four connected novellas that comprise the touching and humorous *Let Me Be Frank With You*—like a coda to the trilogy—we see Frank confronting his aging self and, at the same time, a New Jersey coastline recently ravaged by Hurricane Sandy. In some ways, he's the same old Frank: an admitted "malcontent," cranky and kvetching, but funny and, mostly, a good guy. Speaking of being frank, I must admit: as a fan of the trilogy (especially the first two), I was doubtful that I'd care about the first-world problems of rich and retired Frank Bascombe, now on the verge of 70. But there's a creeping sadness that infuses these stories, and a little bit of rage, as in raging against the dying light. Frank is successful, but he doesn't seem all that satisfied. Friendship is overrated, he claims. "None of us... are really designed to have that many friends." It's touching and at times moving to watch Frank both resist and acknowledge "death's processional onset ... the final, thrilling dips of the roller coaster." In the end, the ride of life is often a waiting game. Says Frank: "Time fixes things, mostly." --*Neal Thompson*

### Review

"Frank Bascombe, the protagonist of *The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day*, and *The Lay of the Land*, continues to reflect on the meaning of existence in these four absorbing, funny, and often profound novellas . . . Frank's cranky comments and free-flowing meditations about current social and political events are slyly juxtaposed with references to Tolstoy, Shakespeare, Trollope, Emerson, Milton, and others. Despite Frank's dyspeptic outlook, Ford packs in a surprising amount of affirmation and redemption. Readers who met Frank in Ford's earlier novels will quickly reconnect with his indelible personality." --*Publishers Weekly*

"The novelist returns with his favorite protagonist for a coda that is both fitting and timely . . . Each of its four chapters could stand as a story on its own, featuring Frank's meditations on odd encounters with someone from his past, now that he has settled into the detachment of retirement from the real-estate racket . . . Over the course of his encounters, there are a couple of revelations that might disturb a man who felt more, but plot is secondary here to Frank's voice, which remains at a reflective remove from whatever others are experiencing. Another Bascombe novel would be a surprise, but so is this - a welcome one." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"This cleverly titled set of four novellas narrated by Ford's signature character, Frank Bascombe, is caustically hilarious, warmly philosophical, and emotionally lush . . . Like Frank, Ford, winner of the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence for Canada, certainly is incisively frank, forensically observant, and covertly tender." --*Booklist* (starred review)

### From the Back Cover

In his trio of critically acclaimed, bestselling novels—*The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day*, and *The Lay of the Land*—Richard Ford illuminated the zeitgeist of an entire generation, through the divinations of his now-famous literary chronicler, Frank Bascombe.

In *Let Me Be Frank With You*, Bascombe returns to narrate four deftly linked stories, having thrived—seemingly if not utterly—in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. As in all of the Bascombe books, Ford's guiding spirit is the old comic's maxim that promises if nothing's funny, nothing's truly serious; the desolation of Sandy could scarcely be more serious as the grist for fiction, yet it is the perfect backdrop. With a flawless comedic sensibility and unblinking intelligence, these stories range over the full complement of American subjects: aging, race, loss, faith, marriage, redemption—the tumult of the world we live in.

With his trademark candor and brimming wit, Richard Ford brings Bascombe fully back, in all his imperfect glory, showcasing the maturity and brilliance of a great writer working at the top of his talents.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Pamela Edmonds:**

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or read a book entitled Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have additional opinion?

#### **Mary Redus:**

As people who live in the particular modest era should be update about what going on or data even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which one you should start with. This Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

#### **Vanessa Palacios:**

This Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The reason of this Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book can be among the great books you must have is giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you actually with information that might be will shock your before knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed people. Beside that this Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

**Amy Nichols:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Let Me Be Frank With You: A Frank Bascombe Book it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

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