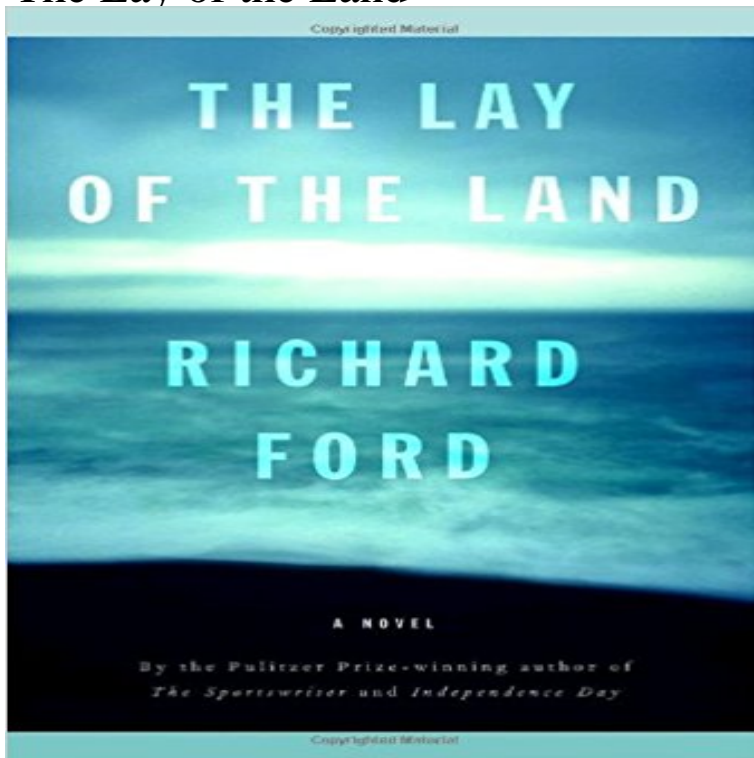


The Lay of the Land



With *The Sportsman*, in 1986, Richard Ford commenced a cycle of novels that ten years later after *Independence Day* won both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award was hailed by *The Times of London* as an extraordinary epic [that] is nothing less than the story of the twentieth century itself. Now, a decade later, Frank Bascombe returns, with a new lease on life (and real estate), more acutely in thrall to life's endless complexities than ever before. His story resumes in the autumn of 2000, when his trade as a realtor on the Jersey Shore is thriving, permitting him to revel in the acceptance of that long, stretching-out time when my dreams would have mystery like any ordinary persons; when whatever I do or say, who I marry, how my kids turn out, becomes what the world if it makes note at all knows of me, how I'm seen, understood, even how I think of myself before whatever there is that's wild and unassuageable rises and cheerlessly hauls me off to oblivion. But as a Presidential election hangs in the balance, and a postnuclear-family Thanksgiving looms before him along with crises both marital and medical, Frank discovers that what he terms the Permanent Period is fraught with unforeseen perils: All the ways that life feels like life at age fifty-five were strewn around me like poppies. A holiday, and a novel, no reader will ever forget at once hilarious, harrowing, surprising, and profound. *The Lay of the Land* is astonishing in its own right and a magnificent expansion of one of the most celebrated chronicles of our time.

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Community Rating: 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0. Community Rating: 3.378 / 5 (41 votes). Click here to view ratings and comments. **The lay of the land Synonyms, The lay of the land Antonyms** English[edit]. Noun[edit]. lay of the land. (idiomatic) The physical characteristics of the terrain or surrounding natural environment. [quotations ?]. 1857, Henry **Lay Of The Land Definition of Lay Of The Land by Merriam-Webster** 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