



## The Whore's Child: Stories

By Richard Russo

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To this irresistible debut collection of short stories, Richard Russo brings the same bittersweet wit, deep knowledge of human nature, and spellbinding narrative gifts that distinguish his best-selling novels. His themes are the imperfect bargains of marriage; the discoveries and disillusionments of childhood; the unwinnable battles men and women insist on fighting with the past.

A cynical Hollywood moviemaker confronts his dead wife's lover and abruptly realizes the depth of his own passion. As his parents' marriage disintegrates, a precocious fifth-grader distracts himself with meditations on baseball, spaghetti, and his place in the universe. And in the title story, an elderly nun enters a college creative writing class and plays havoc with its tidy notions of fact and fiction. **The Whore's Child** is further proof that Russo is one of the finest writers we have, unsparingly truthful yet hugely compassionate and capable of creating characters real that they seem to step off the page.

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## **The Whore's Child: Stories** By Richard Russo Bibliography

- Rank: #371480 in Books
- Brand: Vintage
- Published on: 2003-07-08
- Released on: 2003-07-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.97" h x .65" w x 5.18" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages



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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

In *The Whore's Child*, Richard Russo's first collection of short fiction, the 2002 Pulitzer Prize-wining author of *Empire Falls* explores difficult emotional territory while retaining the assured wisdom and humor of his best work. Infidelity, self-reflection, and the fallibility of memory come into consideration in this entertaining and perceptive collection. The book's titular story sets the tone for the whole: an elderly nun crashes a college writing workshop and composes her own life story, sharing the details of her childhood growing up in a convent as the abandoned daughter of a prostitute. As her troubling story unfolds, the class realizes the fictions she has unknowingly imposed upon it. Other stories examine familial relationships and responsibility: the bittersweet "Joyride" follows the desperate road trip of a mother and son, each running from troubles they won't admit to. The collection's best and most lighthearted story, "The Mysteries of Linwood Hart," explores the daydreaming, curious mind of 10-year-old Linwood as he ponders the self-defeating behavior of his family, the desires of inanimate objects, and his perceived place at the center of the universe. Russo surveys these subjects with skilled ease and accuracy, communicating a quiet understanding of his characters and their personal yet universal concerns. Russo, like Flannery O'Connor, has a gift for conveying the absurdity and severity of everyday life with brutal honesty, humor, and compassion:

It was an awful place, but Lin understood it was as perfectly real as every place else in the world, which was large beyond imagining, containing every single place he himself had ever been or never would see in his entire life.

Uncommon in its natural insight, *The Whore's Child* recognizes the often unwelcome realities of experience and is all the more exceptional for it. --Ross Droll

#### From Publishers Weekly

Russo's sterling reputation is largely due to his astounding ability to present the tangled emotions of troubled parent-child and marital relationships with comic verve, bracing clarity and dramatic tension fused with an undercurrent of pathos. These predicaments are well represented in the seven stories of his first collection, whose protagonists betray themselves and others in different social milieus. The brassy, flaky mother in "Joy Ride," who leaves her stodgy husband in Camden, Maine, and drives across the continent with her 12-year-old son in search of "freedom," may have much in common with the overbearing, intellectually pretentious mother in "The Mysteries of Linwood Hart," in which her 10-year-old son tries to fathom the implicit but inexplicable rules of adult behavior, but one woman is forced to admit defeat in the marital game, and the other is triumphant. In another case of parallel identities, the emotionally constricted college professor in "The Farther You Go" and the professor emeritus in "Buoyancy" must both acknowledge betrayal of their wives, not through deeds but as a result of their cold self-absorption. Ironically, the misogynistic Hollywood photographer in "Monhegan Light" learns a bitter lesson in Martha's Vineyard when he discovers his dead wife's decency in protecting him from knowledge of her longtime affair. The most memorable character here, however, is the title story's Sister Ursula, the daughter of a prostitute whose lifelong search for her absent father ends with a heartbreakng epiphany. Russo's rueful understanding of the twisted skein of human relationships is as sharp as ever, and the dialogue throughout is barbed, pointed and wryly humorous. The collection is a winner.

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#### From Library Journal

A first collection from Russo, who did so splendidly last year with *Empire Falls*.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Lauren Barnett:**

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This The Whore's Child: Stories is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

#### **Louise Hawkins:**

Is it an individual who having spare time after that spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Whore's Child: Stories can be the respond to, oh how comes? A book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

#### **Edna Miller:**

As we know that book is essential thing to add our expertise for everything. By a reserve we can know everything we want. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This publication The Whore's Child: Stories was filled concerning science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your research competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading any book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book that you wanted.

#### **Paula Adame:**

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