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**Tobacco Road Tobacco Road** *Tobacco Road* God's Little Acre **Erskine Caldwell** Journeyman  
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Seen Their Faces **Discovering the South** *All-out on the Road to Smolensk* In Search of Bisco  
**Erskine Caldwell** *The Pocket Book of Erskine Caldwell* *Stories* *The Pocket Book of Erskine Caldwell*  
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Erskine Caldwell's Tobacco Road and God's Little Acre *The Pocket Book of Erskine Caldwell* *Stories*  
*Captains and the Kings* **Call it Experience Tobacco Road** The Critical Response to Erskine  
Caldwell Erskine Caldwell Poor Fool **Three by Caldwell: Tobacco Road** Annette Erskine Caldwell  
**Place Called Estherville Erskine Caldwell reconsidered**

In the Depression-era Deep South, a destitute farmer struggles to raise a family on his own: The bestselling classic by the author of *Tobacco Road*. Single father and poor Southern farmer Ty Ty Walden has a plan to save his farm and his family: He will tear his fields apart until he finds gold. While Ty Ty obsesses over his fool's quest, his sons and daughters search in vain for their own dreams of instant happiness—whether from money, violence, or sex. *God's Little Acre* is a classic dark comedy, a satire that lampoons a broken South while holding a light to the toll that poverty takes on the hopes and dreams of the poor themselves. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Erskine Caldwell including rare photos and never-before-seen documents courtesy of the Dartmouth College Library. Tells the story of Blondy Niles, a boxer living on the fringes of society, who gets caught up in horrible acts when he falls under the spell of Mrs. Boxx, a woman who runs an abortion mill in her house Both biographically revealing and analytically astute, author Jay Caldwell offers a profound, new perspective on two of America's most renowned midcentury artists at the peaks of their careers. In this travelogue and memoir, groundbreaking novelist Erskine Caldwell looks back at a life lived in the troubled South Five decades removed from his own Southern childhood, novelist Erskine Caldwell sets out on a journey to find an old friend—a friend lost to him through the culture of segregation. As Caldwell follows a trail through Georgia, South Carolina, and much of the Deep South in search of his black childhood friend Bisco, his interviews with white and black Americans expose a range of attitudes that are tragic, if not surprising. Published first in the mid-1960s just as the South was undergoing a radical transformation by freedom marches and sit-ins, *In Search of Bisco* offers a heartfelt account of the civil rights movement by one of the region's fiercest critics and most prominent sons. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Erskine Caldwell including rare photos and never-before-seen documents courtesy of the Dartmouth College Library. Author of such classics of 20th-century popular American literature as *Tobacco Road* (1932) and *God's Little Acre* (1933), Erskine Caldwell was something of a celebrity nearly all his life. But he was also a serious writer, one whose merits are as considerable as they remain underexplored. In the 1930s, he startled the literary world with his frank portrayals of the poor whites of the South. Beginning in the early 1940s, critics grew suspicious that he had exhausted his originality and his talent. In the late 1960s, some scholars began an effort, which continues intermittently today, to reconsider Caldwell's achievement. This collection of reviews, critical essays, and book excerpts provides a chronological portrait of the often contradictory and unfailingly colorful critical response to Caldwell from 1931 to the present. The 57 pieces collected in this volume were chosen to represent all sides and perspectives in the evolving critical opinion of Caldwell's work. The items are

grouped in sections representing three chronological periods that encompass the prevailing critical moods concerning his writings: the 1930s, when readers of many persuasions found him promising and held out great hopes for his development; 1940 to 1968, when increasing critical scrutiny led to his dismissal as a writer of significance; and 1969 to the present, when there have been several substantial efforts to reconsider Caldwell's achievement. An introductory essay argues that Caldwell remains largely absent from our critical consciousness today because of a prevailing willingness among academics to rely on largely negative received opinions about his books in place of primary experience with them. The introduction is followed by a chronology, and the volume concludes with an extensive selected bibliography. Miller offers a fresh reassessment of Caldwell's place in the national literary canon. Drawing on private letters, interviews with family members and friends, and contemporary criticism, he traces with narrative grace and style the sometimes tumultuous, yet always compelling, path of a true American original. Photos. Most critics have considered Caldwell to be only a minor southern writer, often associating him with his worst writing. Yet Saul Bellow suggested he deserved the Nobel Prize, and William Faulkner once characterized him as one of the five best writers of his time, alongside himself, Thomas Wolfe, Ernest Hemingway, and John Dos Passos. *Conversations with Erskine Caldwell* contains thirty-two interviews with this major writer, who during his long career enjoyed both the celebrity and the controversy that his books generated. These collected interviews include what is apparently his first, given in 1929 before the publication of *The Bastard*, to one of the very last, given only weeks before his death in April 1987. Caldwell was a lifelong outspoken opponent of censorship and an early advocate of racial equality. His ideas were reflected in a number of important interviews and portraits, often in newspapers or small journals not easily obtained today. In his later years he became a kind of elder statesman, celebrated as the last of that extraordinary generation of American writers which included Faulkner, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Wolfe, and Steinbeck and which changed the face of American literature. The interviews in this collection reveal Caldwell's attitudes toward the profession of writing. He describes his early years of struggle, his determination to prove himself as a writer, and his tremendous success as the author of *Tobacco Road* and *God's Little Acre*, two American classics. He explains his attitude toward the South and his desire to bring about social reform through his writings. He is also candid about his own personal trials, his doubts and beliefs, and the state of his critical reputation. "I'm just an ordinary writer," Erskine Caldwell once wrote. "I'm not trying to sell anything; I'm not trying to buy anything. I'm just trying to present my vision of life." His ostensibly unsolicitous vision of Southern grotesques, of the slack-jawed, pellagra-ridden sharecroppers, repressed farmwives, and oversexed nymphets, elicited, however, anything but an "ordinary" response. Hailed by the likes of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Maxwell Perkins, reviled by others as a pornographer or sensationalist, Caldwell was once called "America's most popular author." Once the furor flagged, Caldwell was relegated to the "mansions of subliterature," where his reputation resides today. This book contains more than 150 previously unpublished letters, notes, telegrams, and postcards written between 1929 and 1955, at the peak of Caldwell's popularity and influence, all extensively annotated. The Introduction assays Caldwell's significance in American popular culture and literary studies and establishes the importance of Caldwell's correspondence as a means of understanding the intentions of a man who was otherwise terse and unforthcoming about his work.

*New York Times* Bestseller: *Sweeping* from the 1850s through the early 1920s, this towering family saga examines the price of ambition and power. Joseph Francis Xavier Armagh is twelve years old when he gets his first glimpse of the promised land of America through a dirty porthole in steerage on an Irish immigrant ship. His long voyage, dogged by tragedy, ends not in the great city of New York but in the bigoted, small town of Winfield, Pennsylvania, where his younger brother, Sean, and his infant sister, Regina, are sent to an orphanage. Joseph toils at whatever work will pay a living wage and plans for the day he can take his siblings away from St. Agnes's Orphanage and make a home for them all. Joseph's journey will catapult him to the highest echelons of power and grant him entry into the most elite political circles. Even as misfortune continues to follow the Armagh family like an ancient curse, Joseph takes his revenge against the uncaring world that once took everything

from him. He orchestrates his eldest son Rory's political ascent from the offspring of an Irish immigrant to US senator. And Joseph will settle for nothing less than the pinnacle of glory: seeing his boy crowned the first Catholic president of the United States. Spanning seventy years, *Captains and the Kings*, which was adapted into an eight-part television miniseries, is Taylor Caldwell's masterpiece about nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America, and the grit, ambition, fortitude, and sheer hubris it takes for an immigrant to survive and thrive in a dynamic new land. The classic novel of a Georgia family undone by the Great Depression: "[A] story of force and beauty" (New York Post). Even before the Great Depression struck, Jeeter Lester and his family were desperately poor sharecroppers. But when hard times begin to affect the families that once helped support them, the Lesters slip completely into the abyss. Rather than hold on to each other for support, Jeeter, his wife Ada, and their twelve children are overcome by the fractured and violent society around them. Banned and burned when first released in 1932, *Tobacco Road* is a brutal examination of poverty's dehumanizing influence by one of America's great masters of political fiction. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Erskine Caldwell including rare photos and never-before-seen documents courtesy of the Dartmouth College Library. Here is a strong, simply told story of the urban South. As a child, Annette doted on her father and hated her fault-finding mother. She often thought of running away to escape her mother, but she was discouraged by vivid stories told by other children about runaway girls who had been raped. Her approaching marriage to Wayne Lombard, a high-school sweetheart, introduces Annette to a new life--and makes Wayne understand that he has competition in Mr. Truelove, Annette's man-sized teddy bear, who sleeps with her. Later, when Wayne wants to discuss household finances, she distracts him with her little-girl sex games. After Wayne's violent death, Annette thinks she sees him in other men. She marries again, but soon learns that Doan Thurmond, her new husband, is not much like Wayne. Again she fights a compulsion to escape, just as she did as a child. Then, one rainy evening, she runs out of the house just before Doan returns from work. She is going to a friend's house across town. The streets are dark. She is confused...and somewhere in the back of her mind the fear of rape still lurks. The shocking ending is not exactly what Annette, or the reader, fears.--Dust jacket. An account of travel in Czechoslovakia at the beginning of its domination by Nazi Germany. Since the 1930s, Erskine Caldwell's writings have provoked laughter and pathos, curiosity and disbelief. His perplexing characters, comically motivated only by their instincts for survival, allowed Caldwell to illustrate the duality of human nature as he explored the social issues of his times in such celebrated novels as *Tobacco Road* and *God's Little Acre*. Behind Caldwell's social protest and his comic characters lay a man whose life imitated art. A rural southerner who later moved among the movie industry's famous and powerful, Caldwell led a life as compelling as any of his fiction. As Harvey Klevar weaves the threads of this life into the cultural tapestry of the times, he explores the myriad of personal forces and world events that contributed in the 1930s to Caldwell's popular acclaim and later to his descent from literary grace. A recluse in both his personal life and in his public writing, Caldwell offered little direction to those seeking clues to his literary intentions. Klevar argues that Caldwell should have shared more in the accolades heaped upon his contemporaries Faulkner, Hemingway, and Steinbeck; but ultimately his personal idiosyncrasies encouraged his underestimation by the literary establishment. Proving that a careful reappraisal of Caldwell's life lends critical insight into his writings and career, Klevar's work unveils an inventive artist who skillfully combined social phenomena with personal experience to offer unique insights into the telling of the human story. In the middle years of the Great Depression, Erskine Caldwell and photographer Margaret Bourke-White spent eighteen months traveling across the back roads of the Deep South--from South Carolina to Arkansas--to document the living conditions of the sharecropper. Their collaboration resulted in *You Have Seen Their Faces*, a graphic portrayal of America's desperately poor rural underclass. First published in 1937, it is a classic comparable to Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives*, and James Agee and Walker Evans's *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, which it preceded by more than three years. Caldwell lets the poor speak for themselves. Supported by his commentary, they tell how the tenant system exploited whites and blacks alike and fostered animosity between

them. Bourke-White, who sometimes waited hours for the right moment, captures her subjects in the shacks where they lived, the depleted fields where they plowed, and the churches where they worshipped. Short stories about the twentieth-century South by the national bestselling author of *Tobacco Road*. Author of some of the most widely banned fiction of the twentieth century, Erskine Caldwell had a talent for striking a nerve. In this collection of nearly one hundred stories, the full depth and scope of his talent is on display, including his trademark biting satire as well as his skill at rendering deeply moving portraits of his native South. In a career that spanned over six decades, Caldwell produced stories that serve to document a changing society, from the dehumanizing trials of the Great Depression through the transformative battle to desegregate the South. Taken together, his short fiction reveals a voice that remains essential for readers hoping to understand the American experience. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Erskine Caldwell including rare photos and never-before-seen documents courtesy of the Dartmouth College Library. A major new biography, *Erskine Caldwell: The Journey from Tobacco Road* presents the fascinating life and times of a prolific and profoundly influential -- yet nearly forgotten -- figure in American literature. In the 1930s and '40s, Erskine Caldwell's impassioned work dealing with the Southern poor -- most notably, the novels *Tobacco Road* and *God's Little Acre* -- earned him wide critical acclaim. Although many Southerners reviled him for his brutal exposes of their region, literary scholars at the time ranked him alongside Fitzgerald, Wolfe, and Steinbeck. William Faulkner thought him one of America's five greatest novelists, and as late as 1960, Caldwell was under consideration for the Nobel Prize. Although Caldwell worked for years in abject poverty, eventually his commercial success matched his lofty critical standing. The dramatic adaptation of *Tobacco Road* became the biggest hit in Broadway history, and paperback editions of Caldwell's novels -- frequently under attack for their explicit sexuality -- sold in record numbers around the globe. By the 1960s, in fact, his publicists declared him "The World's Best-Selling Novelist," and by 1970 he had written more than one hundred short stories and twenty-five novels. This should have secured Caldwell an enduring place in America's literary history, but today he is largely forgotten, one of the great disappearing acts in American letters. Caldwell's personal life was no less complicated than his professional one, and Dan B. Miller's evocation of it is uncommonly subtle and provocative. Lonely and isolated as a boy; Caldwell treated his own children with alternating neglect and brutality. He was married four times (once to the photojournalist Margaret Bourke-White), had a number of extramarital affairs, drank heavily, and was prone to violent mood swings. Yet Caldwell could be extraordinarily generous, gentle, and funny, a man of startling inconsistencies and startling energy. The first scholar to explore the entire (and voluminous) collection of Caldwell material at Dartmouth College Library, Dan B. Miller blends narrative grace, keen psychological insight, and dispassionate analysis to trace the tumultuous arc of a true American original and the vibrant literary culture in which he lived. Three powerful novels of racism, lust, and poverty in the rural South by a controversial national bestselling author. Bigotry, poverty, social injustice, and sexual squalor in the Deep South—hallmarks of one of the most daring and phenomenally popular bestselling novelists of the twentieth-century. Here, in one volume, are three of his best-known works. "None of [his] characters would be caught dead in a novel by John Steinbeck, Carson McCullers, or Eudora Welty" (*The Daily Beast*). *Tobacco Road: The Great Depression* compromises the morals of a poor farming family in Georgia. This classic, a Modern Library 100 Best Novels selection, was adapted for the stage in 1933 and made into a 1941 film directed by John Ford. *God's Little Acre: Desperation* takes its toll on a deluded Southern farmer obsessed with sex, violence, and the promise of gold. Banned in Boston, censored in Georgia, and prosecuted by the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, this international bestseller was adapted into a film in 1958. *A Place Called Estherville: In the pre-civil-rights-era South, a biracial brother and sister move to a small segregated town to care for their aunt, only to be subjected to systematic racism, sexual violence, and prejudice.* "What William Faulkner implies, Erskine Caldwell records," said the *Chicago Tribune* of the author who earned his reputation by writing about sex, racism, and religious hypocrisy when no one else was. Caldwell remains one of the most widely translated American authors of all time. This ebook features an

illustrated biography of Erskine Caldwell including rare photos and never-before-seen documents courtesy of the Dartmouth College Library. During the Great Depression, the American South was not merely "the nation's number one economic problem," as President Franklin Roosevelt declared. It was also a battlefield on which forces for and against social change were starting to form. For a white southern liberal like Jonathan Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, it was a fascinating moment to explore. Attuned to culture as well as politics, Daniels knew the true South lay somewhere between Erskine Caldwell's Tobacco Road and Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. On May 5, 1937, he set out to find it, driving thousands of miles in his trusty Plymouth and ultimately interviewing even Mitchell herself. In *Discovering the South* historian Jennifer Ritterhouse pieces together Daniels's unpublished notes from his tour along with his published writings and a wealth of archival evidence to put this one man's journey through a South in transition into a larger context. Daniels's well chosen itinerary brought him face to face with the full range of political and cultural possibilities in the South of the 1930s, from New Deal liberalism and social planning in the Tennessee Valley Authority, to Communist agitation in the Scottsboro case, to planters' and industrialists' reactionary worldview and repressive violence. The result is a lively narrative of black and white southerners fighting for and against democratic social change at the start of the nation's long civil rights era. For more information on this book, see [www.discoveringthesouth.org](http://www.discoveringthesouth.org). Erskine Caldwell has been compared to literary giants like Faulkner and Hemingway, yet he has also been reviled as peddler of pop trash. Was he a genius, or just a shooting star whose brilliance faded long before he stopped writing? Caldwell began his career in the late 1920s and gained fame for revealing the gritty backwoods South in novels such as his seminal *Tobacco Road*. He wrote prolifically, sometimes as much as a book a year. As the editor of this book maintains, perhaps anyone who wrote so much would inevitably stumble. These 12 essays explore a variety of issues. They discuss Caldwell as humorist, social commentator, modernist, and revolutionary novelist. They examine his themes and tropes (political images, social injustice, the environment, ideological struggles) and his use of artistic devices (short stories, cubist strategies, repetition). A generous bibliography includes not only books on Caldwell but also chapters and forewords, journal articles, essays, news items and obituaries. The reader is encouraged to look at Caldwell with fresh eyes, to press beyond his controversial image, and to compare his works, especially his early ones, to those of any of the top names in literature. *Tobacco Road* is set in rural Georgia, several miles outside Augusta during the worst years of the Great Depression. It depicts a family of poor white tenant farmers, the Lesters, as some of the many small Southern cotton farmers made redundant by the industrialization of production and the migration into cities. The main character of the novel is Jeeter Lester, an ignorant and sinful man who is redeemed by his love of the land and his faith in the fertility and promise of the soil. The classic American novel of a philandering, murderous preacher from the national bestselling author of *God's Little Acre*. When preacher Semon Dye moves into the tiny Georgia town of Rocky Comfort, many of its citizens welcome him. After all, the only church in town is being used to store fertilizer. But sermons aren't the first thing on the mind of the tall, magnetic, and utterly dissolute man. Other callings take priority: women, whiskey, gambling, and hiding from the law. Even as he seduces wives, cheats at cards, and provokes old feuds, Dye manages to cast a dark spell over all the people in Rocky Comfort. *Journeyman* is a wicked send-up of religious fervor by an American master of dark political satire. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Erskine Caldwell including rare photos and never-before-seen documents courtesy of the Dartmouth College Library.

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