



The Father: And Other Stories

R. V. Cassill

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A masterful, multifaceted story collection from one of American literature's most influential writers and teachers

As a creative writing teacher whose students included Raymond Carver, Joy Williams, and Andre Dubus, and as longtime editor of *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*, R. V. Cassill profoundly impacted the development of the short story in America. The ten stunning tales in *The Father and Other Stories* exhibit his mastery of the form and the breathtaking scope of his vision.

In “This Hand, These Talons,” a former combat pilot grapples with the dislocations of peacetime. “The Prize,” an O. Henry Award winner, is a tender yet clear-eyed portrait of the growing pains of a Depression-era adolescence. “And in My Heart” is a richly nuanced portrayal of a writing teacher’s obsessive involvement in the ill-fated romance of two of his students. The haunting title story, a widely anthologized masterpiece, illustrates a man’s descent into guilt and despair after he is forced to amputate his son’s hand to save the boy from dying in a farming accident.

Across a broad range of characters, tones, and settings, Cassill finds beauty and insight wherever he looks. *The Father and Other Stories* is proof of his tremendous skill as a storyteller and his enduring influence on contemporary literature.



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