

WILLIAM HUMPHREY



THE ORDWAYS

"Humor, irony, and wisdom. This is a first prize of novel and a delight to read."

— NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

The Ordways

Bert Almon



The Ordways:

The Ordways William Humphrey, 2015-02-17 Good writing is rare enough. Storytelling is an even rarer skill. A genuinely comic vision is beyond price. *The Ordways* has all three. Time On the annual graveyard working day in Clarksville, Texas, families come from all over East Texas to pay respects to their loved ones. The Ordways are one such clan, and in this eloquent and original novel, our narrator recounts the story of how he and his kin arrived in this magical land where the South meets the West. The tale begins with his great grandfather, Thomas Ordway, who lost his sight at the Battle of Shiloh and vowed to quit Tennessee forever. He crossed the Red River into Texas and stopped on the edge of the featureless prairie, a landscape too mystifying even for a sightless man. Years later, the narrator's grandfather, Sam Ordway, was forced to leave the forest behind when his three-year-old son, Ned, was kidnapped by a neighbor. Sam scoured the vast state of Texas in search of Ned but never found the boy. The mystery of what happened to him and what his long hoped-for return might mean to the Ordways brings William Humphrey's brilliant second novel to its rich and satisfying conclusion. A masterful blend of comedy, tragedy, and history, *The Ordways* is great American fiction in the tradition of William Faulkner and Mark Twain. This ebook features an illustrated biography of William Humphrey, including rare photos from the author's estate.

Bad Girls at Samarcand William Humphrey, 1997-05-01 *Ordways* William Humphrey, 1989-05 The first Texas Ordways came west from Tennessee, carrying nothing but the bones of their forefathers. They were too proud to abandon the family tombstone too ornery to let its weight keep them from fording the Red River. The Ordways that came after them were just as stubborn, just as driven. Even the most pious of their women might pursue a passion beyond the grave. Even the most peaceable of their men might lose patience with a neighbor's evil, and when the time came, trek across a heartless frontier on an odyssey of justice and revenge.

Massachusetts Reports Massachusetts. Supreme Judicial Court, 1872 *Wakeful Anguish* Ashby Bland Crowder, 2004-01-06 In this deeply felt biography, Ashby Bland Crowder treats in near-definitive fashion one of southern literature's unjustly neglected masters. In superb novels like *Home from the Hill*, *The Ordways*, and *Proud Flesh*, as well as in the brilliant story collections *The Last Husband* and *A Time and a Place*, William Humphrey (1924-1997) created an imaginary East Texas Red River County, conjuring the speech and life rhythms of his native territory with artistic genius. Crowder's lyrical blending of biographical fact and incisive analysis corrects a mistaken view that Humphrey was among those writers mired in the pious cult of southern delusory remembrance. From early short fiction set in a New York commuter village through late works of the Northeast such as *Hostages to Fortune* and *September Song*, Humphrey allowed himself a psychic distance from the South that fueled an unsparing critique of its myths, exemplified by the fierce deconstruction of Texas heroes found in his last novel, *No Resting Place*. In a poignant discussion of Humphrey's memoir *Farther Off from Heaven*, Crowder demonstrates that the tragic death of his father led to Humphrey's overriding fictional themes of pain and inconsolable loss. Indeed, Crowder asserts that Humphrey failed to achieve literary renown in part because he evokes

emotional experiences beyond what most people can endure Humphrey's fiction derives its power from refusing to indulge in the false consolations of vanished people and history from showing that living in the southern past is not living at all Wakeful Anguish is among the first books about William Humphrey and will be greeted as one of the finest Marshalling unpublished archival letters interviews with persons who knew Humphrey at different stages in his life and private correspondence and conversations between Humphrey and himself Crowder achieves something rare in literary biography a portrait that reveals both the sustained suffering in an author's life and work and his exultation in the triumph of his art **William Humphrey** Bert Almon, 1998 This is the first full length study of the life and writings of the Texas novelist William Humphrey who died August 21 1997 Based on research in Humphrey's vast archives at the University of Texas it provides the first full picture of his life and identifies many untraced sources of his work The guiding principle is an exploration of Humphrey's satire on life destroying myths the myths of the hunter the South the cowboy hero the Depression era outlaw and supremely the myth of Texas To his dismay Humphrey was often seen as a celebrator of these myths *Far from Home* Ashby Bland Crowder, 2008-01-01 Often compared to William Faulkner renowned American writer William Humphrey 1924 1997 sought to shatter myths about the South in such acclaimed novels as *Home from the Hill* *The Ordways* and *Proud Flesh* and in his voluminous short stories critical essays and memoirs This collection of Humphrey's best letters deserves space on the bookshelf alongside these earlier works Beginning in the 1940s when as a true starving artist he wore borrowed clothes and could afford only one meal a day the letters move to his time as a goatherd his stint as a teacher at Bard College and his middle years in Europe They continue as he returns to America and teaches at Washington and Lee MIT Princeton and Smith and decrease in number as his health declines in the late 1980s and early 1990s Humphrey corresponded with some of the central figures in the literary and intellectual life of the twentieth century including writers such as Katherine Anne Porter and Leonard Woolf and the publishers Alfred and Blanche Knopf These letters present a vivid picture of Humphrey as he provides commentary on his contemporaries through personal observations combined with sharp critical judgments Humphrey amuses readers with witty anecdotes and charming tales including a hilarious account of Christmas dinner with Robert Lowell a story about British intellectual Cyril Connolly's near arrest in New York City and a series of enchanting misunderstandings between Humphrey and his French publisher The letters also provide remarkable insights into Humphrey's own works showing him to be a man happiest when he forgot about himself also prone to plunging into despondency The correspondence unforgettably reveals his troubled soul and his life as a quintessential artist a man with the unswerving drive to make a lasting contribution to American literature The Bay State Monthly, 1898 *New England Magazine*, 1898

Reinventing the South Mark Royden Winchell, 2006 Surveys the revivification and reinvention of southern culture and literature and the influence of the Agrarians Fugitives New Critics and popular writers including John Gould Fletcher Robert Penn Warren Monroe K Spears Walter Sullivan William Faulkner Tennessee Williams William Humphrey and Cormac

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