

Remembering By Wendell Berry

□Berry is a superb writer. His sense of what makes characters tick is extraordinary . . . Short stories don't get any better than these. □People As part of Counterpoint's celebration of beloved American author Wendell Berry comes this reissue of his 1986 classic, *The Wild Birds: Six Stories of the Port William Membership*. Those stories include □Thicker Than Liquor□, □Where Did They Go?□, □It Wasn't Me□, □The Boundary□, □That Distant Land□, and the titular □The Wild Birds.□ Spanning more than three

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decades, from 1930 to 1967, these wonderful stories follow Wheeler Catlett, and reintroduce readers to the beloved people who live in Berry's fictional town of Port William, Kentucky.

Presents interviews with the late American author and commentaries on his life and work

A collection of poems written outdoors on Sunday mornings over a span of more than two decades explores the beauty and spirituality of the natural world

The most comprehensive—and only author-authorized—Wendell Berry reader, "America's

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greatest philosopher on sustainable life and living" (Chicago Tribune). In a time when our relationship to the natural world is ruled by the violence and greed of unbridled consumerism, Wendell Berry speaks out in these prescient essays, drawn from his fifty-year campaign on behalf of American lands and communities. The writings gathered in *The World-Ending Fire* are the unique product of a life spent farming the fields of rural Kentucky with mules and horses, and of the rich, intimate knowledge of the land cultivated by this work. These are essays written in defiance of the false call to progress and in

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defense of local landscapes, essays that celebrate our cultural heritage, our history, and our home. With grace and conviction, Wendell Berry shows that we simply cannot afford to succumb to the mass-produced madness that drives our global economy—the natural world will not allow it. Yet he also shares with us a vision of consolation and of hope. We may be locked in an uneven struggle, but we can and must begin to treat our land, our neighbors, and ourselves with respect and care. As Berry urges, we must abandon arrogance and stand in awe.

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Reclaiming the Gifts of a Lost Spiritual Discipline

Wendell Berry's Imagination of Port William

Letters to a Young Farmer

The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry

The Essential Wendell Berry

Nathan Coulter

Watch With Me

"Berry richly evokes Port William's farmlands and hamlets, and his characters are fiercely individual, yet mutually protective in everything they do. . . . His sentences are exquisitely constructed,

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suggesting the cyclic rhythms of his agrarian world." –New York Times Book Review Reissued as part of Counterpoint's celebration of beloved American author Wendell Berry, the five stories in Fidelity return readers to Berry's fictional town of Port William, Kentucky, and the familiar characters who form a tight-knit community within. "Each of these elegant stories spans the twentieth century and reveals the profound interconnectedness of the farmers and their families to one another, to their

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past and to the landscape they inhabit."

—The San Francisco Chronicle "Visionary .

. . . rooted in a deep concern for nature and the land, . . . [these stories are]

tough, relentless and clear. In a roundabout way they are confrontational because they ask basic questions about men and women, violence, work and loyalty."

—Hans Ostrom, The Morning News Tribune Presents a collection of three novels that chronicles life in a Kentucky community.

?Introduction by Terry Tempest Williams

Afterword by T. H. Watkins ?Called a

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"magnificently crafted story . . . brimming with wisdom" by Howard Frank Mosher in The Washington Post Book World, Crossing to Safety has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.

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Part ribald farce, part lyrical contemplation, Wendell Berry's novel is the story of a place—Port William, Kentucky—the farm lands and forests that surround it, and the river that runs nearby. The rhythms of this novel are the rhythms of the land. . . .

*The Spiritual Practice of Remembering
The Wild Birds*

A Place on Earth

Remembering

Resist Much, Obey Little

Cultivating Virtues of Place

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The Grumbler's Guide to Giving Thanks Composed while Wendell Berry looked out the multipaned window of his writing studio, this early sequence of poems contemplates Berry's personal life as much as it ponders the seasons he witnessed through the window. First designed and printed on a Washington hand press by Bob Barris at the Press on Scroll Road, *Window Poems* includes elegant wood engravings by Wesley Bates that complement the reflective and meditative beauty of Berry's poems.

As in thought he passes backward into time, the country becomes quieter, and it seems to grow

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larger. The sounds of engines become less frequent and farther apart until they cease altogether. On a clear Kentucky night in 1888, a young woman risks her life to save a stranger from a drunken mob. Almost a hundred years later, her great-grandson Andy climbs a hill at the edge of town, and is flooded with memories of all he has lived, seen and heard of the past century of neighbourly feuds and family secrets; of grief and betrayal - and of great friendship that endures for a lifetime. Wendell Berry unravels the story of a town over the course of four generations, lovingly chronicling the intertwined lives of the families who call it home. Affectionate,

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elegiac and wry, these uplifting rural fables invite us to witness the beauty and quiet heroism at the heart of each ordinary, interconnected life.

We often dismiss history as dull or irrelevant, but our modern disengagement from the past puts us fundamentally out of step with the long witness of the Christian tradition. Yet, says Margaret Bendroth, the past tense is essential to our language of faith, and without it our conversation is limited and thin. This accessible, beautifully written book presents a new argument for honoring the past. The Christian tradition gives us the powerful image of a vast communion of saints, all of God's people, both living

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and dead, in vital conversation with each other. This kind of connection with our ancestors in the faith, Bendroth maintains, will not happen by wishing or by accident. She argues that remembering must become a regular spiritual practice, part of the rhythm of our daily lives as we recognize our world to be, in many ways, a gift from others who have gone before.

Originally published in 2005, That Distant Land brings together twenty–three stories from the Port William Membership. Arranged in their fictional chronology, the book is not an anthology so much as it is a coherent temporal mapping of this

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landscape over time, revealing Berry's mastery of decades of the life lived alongside this clutch of interrelated characters bound by affection and followed over generations. This volume combines the stories found in *The Wild Birds* (1985), *Fidelity* (1992), and *Watch with Me* (1994), together with a map and a charting of the complex and interlocking genealogies.

Whitefoot

Crossing to Safety

That Distant Land

Collected & New Sabbath Poems

The Art of Loading Brush

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The Art of the Commonplace

This Day

First published in 1971, *The Country of Marriage* is Wendell Berry's fifth volume of poetry. What he calls "an expansive metaphor" is "a farmer's relationship to his land as the basic and central relation of humanity to creation." "Similarly, marriage is the basic and central community tie; it begins and stands for the relation we have to family and to the larger circles of human association. And these relationships are in turn basic to, and may stand for, our relationship to God and to the sustaining mysteries and powers of creation." Each of the thirty – five poems in this collection is concerned with this metaphor. The long sequence that is itself entitled "The Country of Marriage," perhaps the finest single work in the book, is a grave, moving, and beautifully wrought love

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poem. But the shorter lyrics have an equal grace and beauty—writing that contains the exhilarating lucidity of mountain spring water. And there are most notably, several more poems about the "Mad Farmer," who advises us here to 'every day do something that won't compute.' Berry has here perfected a work that is immediately accessible but that becomes, as we read it again, always more satisfying, reverberant with manifold meanings. This rich volume reflects the development of Berry's poetic sensibility. "the Selected Poems of Wendell Berry makes available cartloads and heaps of clear and fluent work from Berry's fourteen books of poetry and four decades of writing, closely documenting the inner and the visible lives Berry sees and feels in agriculture and in nature."

Remembering A Novel Catapult

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Hannah Coulter is Wendell Berry ' s seventh novel and his first to employ the voice of a woman character in its telling. Hannah, the now – elderly narrator, recounts the love she has for the land and for her community. She remembers each of her two husbands, and all places and community connections threatened by twentieth – century technologies. At risk is the whole culture of family farming, hope redeemed when her wayward and once lost grandson, Virgil, returns to his rural home place to work the farm.

Hannah Coulter

A Novel

The Collected Stories

Three Short Novels

The World-Ending Fire

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Two More Stories of the Port William Membership

A poetic novel of despair, hope, and the redemptive power of work deepens an award-winning author's grand Port Williams literary project. After losing his hand in an accident, Andy Catlett confronts an agronomist whose surreal vision can see only industrial farming. This vision is powerfully contrasted with that of modest Amish farmers content to live outside the pressures brought by capitalist postindustrial progress, and by working the land to keep away the three great evils of boredom, vice, and need. As Andy's perspective filters through his anger over his loss and the harsh city of San Francisco surrounding him, he

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begins to remember: the people and places that wait 2,000 miles away in his Kentucky home, the comfort he knew as a farmer, and his symbiotic relationship to the soil. Andy laments the modern shift away from the love of the land, even as he begins to accept his own changed relationship to the world. Wendell Berry ' s continued fascination with the power of memory continues in this treasured novel set in 1976.

“ [Berry ' s] poems, novels and essays . . . are probably the most sustained contemporary articulation of America ' s agrarian, Jeffersonian ideal. ” —Publishers Weekly “ Wendell Berry is one of those rare individuals who speaks to us always of responsibility, of the

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individual cultivation of an active and aware participation in the arts of life. ” —The Bloomsbury Review

An impassioned, thoughtful, and fearless essay on the effects of racism on the American identity by one of our country ' s most humane literary voices. Acclaimed as “ one of the most humane, honest, liberating works of our time ” (The Village Voice), *The Hidden Wound* is a book-length essay about racism and the damage it has done to the identity of our country. Through Berry ' s personal experience, he explains how remaining passive in the face of the struggle of racism further corrodes America ' s great potential. In a quiet and

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observant manner, Berry opens up about how his attempt to discuss racism is rooted in the hope that someday the historical wound will begin to heal.

Pulitzer prize-winning author Larry McMurtry calls this

“ a profound, passionate, crucial piece of writing . . .

Few readers, and I think, no writers will be able to read it without a small pulse of triumph at the temples: the strange, almost communal sense of triumph one feels when someone has written truly well . . . The statement it makes is intricate and beautiful, sad but strong. ”

“ Mr. Berry is a sophisticated, philosophical poet in the line descending from Emerson and Thoreau.” The Baltimore Sun “[Berry ’ s poems] shine with the gentle

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wisdom of a craftsman who has thought deeply about the paradoxical strangeness and wonder of life." The Christian Science Monitor "Wendell Berry is one of those rare individuals who speaks to us always of responsibility, of the individual cultivation of an active and aware participation in the arts of life." The Bloomsbury Review " [Berry ' s] poems, novels and essays . . . are probably the most sustained contemporary articulation of America ' s agrarian, Jeffersonian ideal. " Publishers Weekly
A white-footed mouse is swept away in a flood and must carefully watch and wait until it is safe to make a home in its new surroundings.

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Trade Grumbling for Gratitude—Experience God like Never Before The apostle Paul instructed the Philippians to be anxious in nothing and thankful in everything. And when he said everything—he meant everything. We can all agree that this is easier said than done. Disappointments and discontent may cause you to slip into dissatisfaction, and grumbling becomes a state of mind—gratitude seems impossible to find. However, what if this is the precise reason you lack the joy of a God-filled life? Instead of a reaction to when things are going well, what if gratitude is actually necessary to knowing the hope of our gracious God? This is exactly what Pastor Dustin Crowe identifies in

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The Grumbler ' s Guide to Giving Thanks. Dustin examines the biblical foundations of thankfulness and traces how it can reshape every-day Christian living. When we express gratitude in all things, we not only praise our Creator, we also get to know Him better. With The Grumbler ' s Guide, you ' ll learn how to practice thanksgiving in both simple and extraordinary ways, even when you ' re tempted to dwell on the negative. You ' ll find your outlook on life realigned to see the hand of God in everything, strengthening your trust in Him. And in doing so, you ' ll find greater, more joy-filled reasons to continue expressing thanks to our good and generous God.

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A Story from the Center of the World

Early Travels

What Are People For?

Remembering Ed Abbey

A Timbered Choir

Fidelity

Andy Catlett

"Here is a human being speaking with calm and sanity out of the wilderness. We would do well to hear him." —The Washington Post Book World *The Art of the Commonplace* gathers twenty essays by Wendell Berry that offer an agrarian alternative to our dominant urban culture. Grouped around five themes—an agrarian critique of culture, agrarian fundamentals, agrarian

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economics, agrarian religion, and geobiography—these essays promote a clearly defined and compelling vision important to all people dissatisfied with the stress, anxiety, disease, and destructiveness of contemporary American culture. Why is agriculture becoming culturally irrelevant, and at what cost? What are the forces of social disintegration and how might they be reversed? How might men and women live together in ways that benefit both? And, how does the corporate takeover of social institutions and economic practices contribute to the destruction of human and natural environments? Through his staunch support of local economies, his defense of farming communities, and his call for family integrity, Berry emerges as the champion of responsibilities and priorities that serve the health, vitality and happiness of the whole community of creation.

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""Read [him] with pencil in hand, make notes, and hope that somehow our country and the world will soon come to see the truth that is told here."" —The New York Times Book Review In this collection of essays, first published in 1993, Wendell Berry continues his work as one of America's most necessary social commentators. With wisdom and clear, ringing prose, he tackles head-on some of the most difficult problems confronting us near the end of the twentieth century—problems we still face today. Berry elucidates connections between sexual brutality and economic brutality, and the role of art and free speech. He forcefully addresses America's unabashed pursuit of self-liberation, which he says is ""still the strongest force now operating in our society."" As individuals turn away from their community, they conform to a ""rootless and placeless

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monoculture of commercial expectations and products,"" buying into the very economic system that is destroying the earth, our communities, and all they represent.

Wendell Berry's Sabbath Poems are filled with spiritual longing and political extremity, memorials and celebrations, elegies and lyrics, alongside the occasional rants of the Mad Farmer, pushed to the edge yet again by his compatriots and elected officials. With the publication of this new complete edition, it has become increasingly clear that the Sabbath Poems have become the very heart of Berry's work. And these magnificent poems, taken as a whole for the first time in This Day, have become one of the greatest contributions ever made to American poetry.

Wendell Berry teaches us to love our places--to pay careful attention to where we are, to look beyond and within, and to live

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in ways that are not captive to the mastery of cultural, social, or economic assumptions about our life in these places. Creation has its own integrity and demands that we confront it. In The Place of Imagination, Joseph R. Wiebe argues that this confrontation is precisely what shapes our moral capacity to respond to people and to places. Wiebe contends that Berry manifests this moral imagination most acutely in his fiction. Berry's fiction, however, does not portray an average community or even an ideal one. Instead, he depicts broken communities in broken places--sites and relations scarred by the routines of racial wounds and ecological harm. Yet, in the tracing of Berry's characters with place-based identities, Wiebe demonstrates the way in which Berry's fiction comes to embody Berry's own moral imagination. By joining these ambassadors of Berry's moral imagination in

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their fictive journeys, readers, too, can allow imagination to transform their affection, thereby restoring place as a facilitator of identity as well as hope for healed and whole communities. Loving place translates into loving people, which in turn transforms broken human narratives into restored lives rooted and ordered by their places.

and Six Other Stories of the Yet-Remembered Ptolemy Proudfoot and His Wife, Miss Minnie, Née Quinch

Stand by Me

Telling the Stories Right

Remembering Laughter

The Place of Imagination

Essays

And Other Essays

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The continuing war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, the political sniping engendered by the Supreme Court nominations, Terry Schiavo - contemporary American society is characterized by divisive anger, profound loss, and danger. Wendell Berry, one of the country's foremost cultural critics, addresses the menace, responding with hope and intelligence in a series of essays that tackle the major questions of the day. Whose freedom are we considering when we speak of the "free market" or "free enterprise?" What is really involved in our National Security? What is the price of ownership without affection? Berry answers in prose that

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shuns abstraction for clarity, coherence, and passion, giving us essays that may be the finest of his long career.

"In Berry ' s new book, *The Art of Loading Brush*, he is a frustrated advocate, speaking out against local wastefulness and distant idealism; he is a gentle friend, asserting, as he always has, the hope possible in caring for the world, and your specific place in it . . . *The Art of Loading Brush* is singular in Berry ' s corpus."—*The Paris Review* "[Berry] has never written better." —*Booklist* (starred review)

Wendell Berry ' s profound critique of American culture has entered its sixth decade, and in this

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gathering he reaches with deep devotion toward a long view of Agrarian philosophy. Mr. Berry believes that American cultural problems are nearly always aligned with their agricultural problems, and recent events have shone a terrible spotlight on the divides between our urban and rural citizens. Our communities are as endangered as our landscapes. There is, as Berry outlines, still much work to do, and our daily lives—in hope and affection—must triumph over despair. Mr. Berry moves deftly between the real and the imagined. The Art of Loading Brush is an energetic mix of essays and stories, including “ The Thought of

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Limits in a Prodigal Age, ” which explores Agrarian ideals as they present themselves historically and as they might apply to our work today. “ The Presence of Nature in the Natural World ” is added here as the bookend of this developing New Agrarianism. Four stories extend the Port William story as it follows Andy Catlett throughout his life to this present moment. Andy works alongside his grandson in “ The Art of Loading Brush, ” one of the most moving and tender stories of the entire Port William cycle. Filled with insights and new revelations from a mind thorough in its considerations and careful in its presentations, The

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Art of Loading Brush is a necessary and timely collection. "Berry's essays, continuing arguments begun in *The Unsettling of America* 40 years ago, will be familiar to longtime readers, blending his farm work with his interests in literature old and new . . . Vintage Berry sure to please and instruct his many admirers."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

In this, Wendell Berry ' s fifth novel and ninth work of fiction, Andy Catlett revisits his own ninth year in the summer of 1944 when his beloved uncle is shot and killed by the surly and mysterious Carp Harmon. This is his Uncle Andrew, after whom the

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boy is named, someone who savored “ company, talk, some kind of to – do, something to laugh at. ” Years later, still possessed by the story, Andy seeks to get to the bottom of all this, to understand the two men and their lethal connection. “ Berry deftly balances Andy ’ s investigation into the town ’ s past with an equally moving realization not only of the sustaining value of memory but of the manner in which they are shaped in enduring ways by what they love . . . a sharp portrait of a town nursing its secrets over decades. ” —Kirkus Reviews

In a rural Kentucky river town, "Old Jack" Beechum, a retired farmer, sees his life again

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through the shades of one burnished day in September 1952. Bringing the earthiness of America's past to mind, *The Memory of Old Jack* conveys the truth and integrity of the land and the people who live from it. Through the eyes of one man can be seen the values Americans strive to recapture as we arrive at the next century.

A World Lost

Six Stories of the Port William Membership

Wendell Berry and Higher Education

The Way of Ignorance

The Sabbath Poems, 1979-1997

Christmas Carmen for Spiritual Life All Year Long

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Jayber Crow

Embittered by the loss of his hand in an accident and his growing alienation from his wife and children, Andy Catlett flees to San Francisco where his midnight walk through the city and accompanying memories initiate his emotional recovery

Poets have long given us poems as portals into the stunning event and astonishing affirmation at the core of Christian faith: the Eternal Word has taken on flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. This is the mystery and message this collection of poems explores. The Latin word for “poetry” is carmen. Over time, carmen formed into our English

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word “charm.” These are Christmas carmen for the believer and doubter, the joyful and sorrowful, and the seeker longing for the experience of “God with us.” They are for opening the heart, widening the imagination, and shaping the soul. They are for remembering and beholding the mystery of the Incarnation in everyday life all year long.

Wendell Berry thinks of himself as a storyteller. It’s somewhat ironic then that he is better known as an essayist, a poet, and an advocate for small farmers. The essays in this collection consider the many facets of Berry’s life and work, but they focus on his efforts as a

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novelist and story writer. Indeed, Berry had already published three novels before his seminal work of cultural criticism, *The Unsettling of America*, established him as an ardent defender of local communities and sustainable agriculture. And over the past fifty years, he has published eight novels and more than forty-eight short stories set in the imagined community of Port William. His exquisite rendering of this small Kentucky town challenges us to see the beauty of our own places and communities and to tend their health, threatened though it inevitably is. The twelve contributors to this collection approach Berry's fiction from a variety of perspectives—literary studies,

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journalism, theology, history, songwriting—to shed light on its remarkable ability to make a good life imaginable and compelling. The first collection devoted to Berry's fiction, this volume insists that any consideration of Berry's work must begin with his stories. Contributors: Ingrid Anna Pierce Kiara Anne Jorgenson Doug Sikkema Ethan Bruce Mannon Fritz Oehlschlaeger Michael R Stevens Eric Miller Grace Marie Olmstead Jake Meador Andrew Peterson

This volume of six linked stories and the novella from which the book derives its title is set in Port William from 1908 to the Second World War. Here Wendell Berry

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introduces two of his more indelible and poignant characters, Ptolemy Proudfoot and his wife Miss Minnie, remarkable for the comic and affectionate range that—with the mastery of this consummate storyteller working at the height of his powers—here approaches the Shakespearean. Tol Proudfoot is huge, outsized, in the tradition of the mythic. The three-hundred-pound farmer, personally imposing and unkempt, is also the most graceful of presences, reserved and gallant toward his tiny wife, the ninety-pound schoolteacher. Their contrasts are humorous, of course, and recall the tall tales of rural Americana. In the novella *Watch with Me*, we are given a

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story of such depth, breadth, and importance it earns being listed as one of the most important short stories written in the American language during the twentieth century.

“Wendell Berry writes with a good husbandman’s care and economy . . . His stories are filled with gentle humor.” —The New York Times Book Review “Berry is the master of earthy country living seen through the eyes of laconic farmers . . . He makes his stories shine with meaning and warmth.” —The Christian Science Monitor “A small treasure of a book . . . part of a long line that descends from Chaucer to Katherine Mansfield to William Trevor.” —Chicago Tribune

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Wendell Berry and the Poetics of Community, Affection,
and Identity

Window Poems

Five Stories

On Food, Farming, and Our Future

Eight Essays

The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry

The Memory of Old Jack

An agricultural revolution is sweeping the land. Appreciation for high-quality food, often locally grown, an awareness of the fragility of our farmlands, and a new generation of young people interested in farming, animals, and respect for the

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earth have come together to create a new agrarian community. To this group of farmers, chefs, activists, and visionaries, Letters to a Young Farmer is addressed. Three dozen esteemed leaders of the changes that made this revolution possible speak to the highs and lows of farming life in vivid and personal letters specially written for this collaboration. Barbara Kingsolver speaks to the tribe of farmers—some born to it, many self-selected—with love, admiration, and regret. Dan Barber traces the rediscovery of lost grains and foodways. Michael Pollan bridges the chasm between agriculture and nature. Bill McKibben connects the early human quest for beer to the modern challenge of farming in a rapidly changing climate. Letters to a Young Farmer is a vital road map of how we eat and farm, and why

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now, more than ever before, we need farmers.

A young boy takes a trip on his own to visit his grandparents in Kentucky in this luminous entry in the acclaimed Port William series. In this “eloquent distillation of Berry’s favorite themes: the importance of family, community and respect for the land” (Kirkus Reviews), nine-year-old Andy Catlett embarks on a solo trip by bus to visit his grandparents in Port William, Kentucky, during the Christmas of 1943. Full of “nostalgic, admiring detail” (Publishers Weekly), Andy observes the modern world crowding out the old ways, and the people he encounters become touchstones for his understanding of a precious and imperiled world. This beautiful, short memoir-like novel is a perfect introduction to Wendell Berry’s rich and ever-evolving saga of the Port

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William Membership, filled with images “as though describing a painting by Edward Hopper” (The New York Times).

Brilliantly detailed characters and subtle social observations distinguish Berry's unassuming but powerful fifth novel. The T.S. Eliot Award-winning poet, essayist and novelist writes with the authority of a man steeped in the culture of a time an...

Ranging from America's insatiable consumerism and household economies to literary subjects and America's attitude toward waste, here Berry gracefully navigates from one topic to the next. He speaks candidly about the ills plaguing America and the growing gap between people and the land. Despite the somber nature of these essays, Berry's voice and prose provide an underlying sense of faith and

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hope. He frames his reflections with poetic responsibility, standing up as a firm believer in the power of the human race not only to fix its past mistakes but to build a future that will provide a better life for all.

Remembering That It Happened Once

New Agrarian Writings

A Country of Marriage

The Hidden Wound

Sex, Economy, Freedom, & Community

Poems

Prominent author and cultural critic Wendell Berry is well known for his contributions to agrarianism and environmentalism, but his commentary on education

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has received comparatively little attention. Berry has been eloquently unmasking America's cultural obsession with restless mobility for decades, arguing that it causes damage to both the land and the character of our communities. Education, he maintains, plays a central role in this obsession, inculcating in students' minds the American dream of moving up and moving on. Drawing on Berry's essays, fiction, and poetry, Jack R. Baker and Jeffrey Bilbro illuminate the influential thinker's vision for higher education in this pathbreaking study. Each chapter begins with an examination of one of Berry's fictional

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narratives and then goes on to consider how the passage inspires new ways of thinking about the university's mission. Throughout, Baker and Bilbro argue that instead of training students to live in their careers, universities should educate students to inhabit and serve their places. The authors also offer practical suggestions for how students, teachers, and administrators might begin implementing these ideas. Baker and Bilbro conclude that institutions guided by Berry's vision might cultivate citizens who can begin the work of healing their communities -- graduates who have been educated for responsible membership

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in a family, a community, or a polity.

"This is a book about Heaven," says Jayber Crow, "but I must say too that . . . I have wondered sometimes if it would not finally turn out to be a book about Hell." It is 1932 and he has returned to his native Port William to become the town's barber. Orphaned at age ten, Jayber Crow's acquaintance with loneliness and want have made him a patient observer of the human animal, in both its goodness and frailty. He began his search as a "pre-ministerial student" at Pigeonville College. There, freedom met with new burdens and a young man needed more than

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a mirror to find himself. But the beginning of that finding was a short conversation with "Old Grit," his profound professor of New Testament Greek. "You have been given questions to which you cannot be given answers. You will have to live them out—perhaps a little at a time." "And how long is that going to take?" "I don't know. As long as you live, perhaps." "That could be a long time." "I will tell you a further mystery," he said. "It may take longer." Wendell Berry's clear-sighted depiction of humanity's gifts—love and loss, joy and despair—is seen through his intimate knowledge of the Port William Membership.

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Nathan Coulter, Wendell Berry's first book, was published in 1960 when he was twenty-seven. In his first novel, the author presents his readers with their first introduction to what would become Berry's life's work, chronicling through fiction a place where the inhabitants of Port William form what is more than community, but rather a "membership" in interrelatedness, a spiritual community, united by duty and bonds of affection for one another and for the land upon which they make their livelihood. When young Nathan loses his grandfather, Berry guides readers through the process of Nathan's grief,

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endearing the reader to the simple humanity through which Nathan views the world. Echoing Berry's own strongly held beliefs, Nathan tells us that his grandfather's life "couldn't be divided from the days he'd spent at work in his fields." Berry has long been compared to Faulkner for his ability to erect entire communities in his fiction, and his heart and soul have always lived in Port William, Kentucky. In this eloquent novel about duty, community, and a sweeping love of the land, Berry gives readers a classic book that takes them to that storied place.