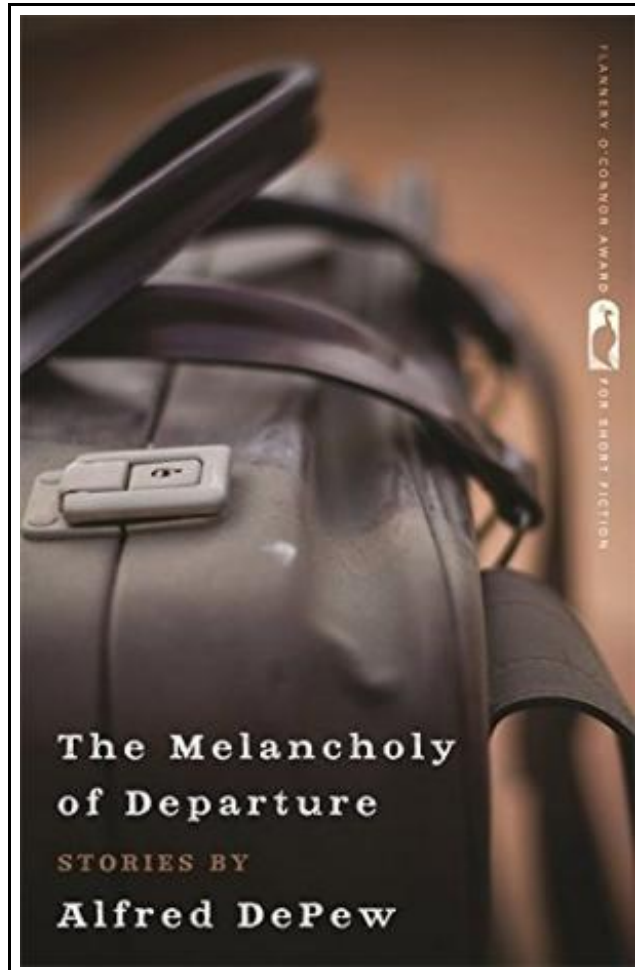


The Melancholy of Departure



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Reviews

This is the finest book i have got go through right up until now. I have got read and i also am confident that i am going to planning to read once again yet again in the future. You will not truly feel monotony at at any time of the time (that's what catalogs are for about if you check with me).
(Taylor Medhurst)

THE MELANCHOLY OF DEPARTURE

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University of Georgia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 146 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.5in. Filled with sharp dialogue, engaging characters, and offbeat detail, the twelve stories collected in *The Melancholy of Departure* describe an outsiders world of longing, disillusion, and survival, where hope is found in unexpected places and understanding comes from unlikely sources. In *Hurley*, the title character is a would-be revolutionary who unsuccessfully tries to explain the difference between erotica and violence against women to a clerk at a pornography shop called *The Fifth Wheel*. *Florence Wearnse* centers on a spinster of the World War I generation who goes deaf to escape the listening, so tired had she grown of stocks and bonds, whooping cough, motor cars, weddings, the Kentucky Derby. A bizarre friendship between a former psychiatric war orderly with an interest in sadism and an obese mental patient who sublimates his needs by eating lemon meringue pie is featured in *Ralph and Larry*. As the title of the collection suggests, many of the stories deal with loss or failed relationships. In *Voici! Henri!*, a story set in Paris, an aging Englishman contemplates life without his young lover, Henri, who has left Switzerland with a wealthy baron. *Let Me Tell You How I Met My First Husband, the Clown!* is a bittersweet remembrance of a Jewish woman's first marriage to Daniel Muldoon: *One-Man Flying Circus*, a man she believes was a sort of Baal Shem Tov with laughing children on his shoulders, a man whom God has put on this earth to show us the study of Talmud was not the only path. *At Home with the Pelletiers* chronicles the disintegration of a St. Louis family after the oldest son, Walter, returns home from Marine Corps boot camp during the Vietnam War. Younger brother Howard...

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