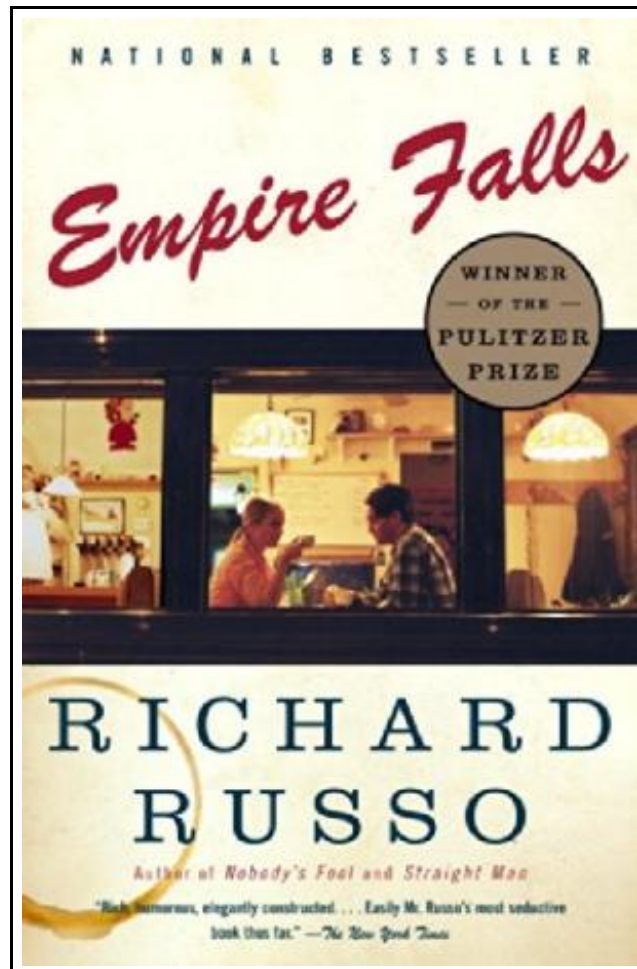


Empire Falls



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Reviews

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Vintage. 1 Paperback(s), 2001. soft. Book Condition: New. (Winner of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction) Following Nobody's Fool and Straight Man, Richard Russo's fifth novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2002, and inspired the Golden Globewinning HBO miniseries of the same name starring Ed Harris and Paul Newman. Miles Roby has been slinging burgers at the Empire Grill in the struggling mill town of Empire Falls, Maine, for 20 years. It's not clear what's keeping him there; maybe it's his daughter Tick, trying to survive high school, or his father Max, a rascal who's always looking for a handout. Maybe it's his soon-to-be ex Janine, who's taken up with a puffed-up health club owner, or heiress Francine Whiting, who owns the diner and thinks she owns Miles too."Miles Roby is a typical Russo hero: wry, unlucky in love and money, and just a little bit smarter than the people who populate his run-down industrial town. In this case, the town is Empire Falls, Maine, where Miles manages a restaurant that serves as a kind of meeting hall for the novel's large cast of characters. There's David, Miles's recovering-alcoholic brother; Walt, the health-club entrepreneur who has stolen Miles's estranged wife; Tick, Miles's precocious, befuddled teen-age daughter; and Francine Whiting, the rich widow who runs everything. Russo is preoccupied with the death of a certain version of the American dream, but his belief in the power of comedysometimes low, sometimes highrescues his work from pathos and elevates it into the realm of literature."The New Yorker 483.



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