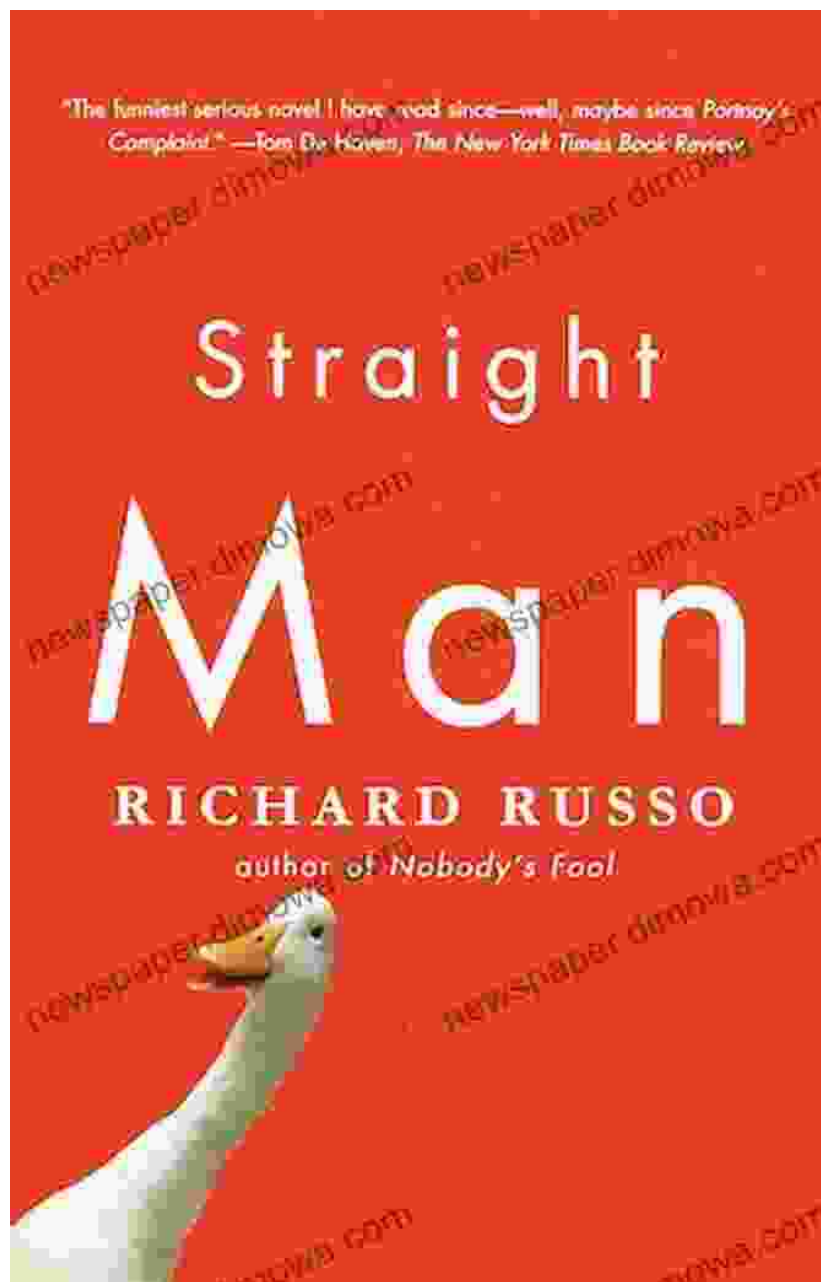


# Meet Hank Devereaux in 'Straight Man': A Character Study of Academic Absurdity

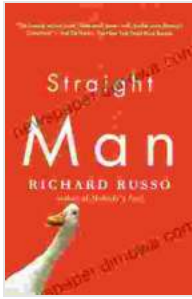


## Straight Man: A Novel (Vintage Contemporaries)

by Richard Russo

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 3303 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 418 pages



## **: Embark on a Literary Journey to the Ridiculous**

Prepare to be transported to the hilariously chaotic world of Midwestern academia in 'Straight Man,' a novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo. This critically acclaimed masterpiece follows the misadventures of Hank Devereaux, the beleaguered English department chair at the fictional Railton College. Through Russo's sharp wit and keen observations, 'Straight Man' skewers the absurdities of higher education, offering a darkly humorous commentary on the human condition.

### **Unveiling the Eccentric Hank Devereaux**

Hank Devereaux is a character that will leave an indelible mark on your literary consciousness. A self-proclaimed "straight man" amidst the eccentricities of academia, Hank is a reluctant hero with a dry wit and a perpetual sense of bewilderment. As he navigates the tangled web of university politics, departmental rivalries, and dysfunctional relationships, Hank's unwavering integrity and deadpan humor provide a refreshing antidote to the chaos that surrounds him.

### **A Mirror Reflecting the Absurdities of Academia**

Through Hank's unique perspective, Russo exposes the inherent ridiculousness of academic life. From pretentious colleagues obsessed with theory to bureaucratic nightmares and the constant pursuit of grants, the novel presents a satirical mirror to the often bizarre world of higher education. Russo's astute observations and razor-sharp wit will resonate with anyone who has ever navigated the academic labyrinth.

### **A Dysfunctional Symphony of Unforgettable Characters**

Hank's journey is intertwined with a colorful cast of equally dysfunctional characters. There's his ambitious and unlikeable colleague, Charles Dobbins, whose schemes for self-advancement are as transparent as they are outrageous. The enigmatic English professor, Lily Penleric, adds to the enigmatic charm with her unconventional teaching methods and enigmatic personal life. Together, these characters form a hilarious and unsettling tapestry that reflects the complexities of human nature.

### **Exploring Themes of Loyalty, Betrayal, and the Search for Meaning**

Beneath the layers of satire, 'Straight Man' explores profound themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the search for meaning in a fragmented world. Hank's relationships with his colleagues, students, and family are constantly tested, forcing him to question his principles and the very nature of existence. Through Hank's journey, Russo invites readers to reflect on the choices we make and the values that define us.

### **Reviews and Accolades**

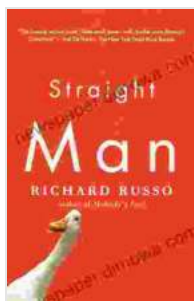
"A masterpiece of comic writing...Richard Russo nails the absurdities and hypocrisies of academic life." - The New York Times

"Russo has written the great novel about academia since Kingsley Amis's 'Lucky Jim'..." - The Washington Post

"A wickedly funny send-up of academic pomposity and pretension." - Entertainment Weekly

## : A Literary Masterpiece that Stays with You

'Straight Man' is an unforgettable literary journey that will delight readers with its witty satire, insightful characterization, and exploration of universal themes. Richard Russo's sharp wit and profound understanding of human nature shine through on every page. This critically acclaimed novel will stay with you long after you finish the last chapter, leaving you with a newfound appreciation for the absurdity of life and the resilience of the human spirit.



## Straight Man: A Novel (Vintage Contemporaries)

by Richard Russo

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3303 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 418 pages





## How Product Managers Can Sell More of Their Product

Product managers are responsible for the success of their products. They need to make sure that their products are meeting the needs of customers and that they are being...



## Unveiling the Secrets to Food Truck Success: Tips for Running and Managing Your Thriving Enterprise

: Embarking on Your Culinary Adventure The allure of food trucks has captivated entrepreneurs and foodies alike, offering boundless opportunities for culinary...