

Memoir

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK

"Earthy, mischievous, yet gorgeous. . . [Bragg's] tales . . . would not be out of place if they were told around a campfire."

— *San Francisco Chronicle*



With the same emotional generosity and effortlessly compelling storytelling that made *All Over But the Shoutin'* a national bestseller, Rick Bragg continues his personal history of the Deep South. This time he's writing about his grandfather Charlie Bundrum, a man who died before Bragg was born but left an indelible imprint on the people who loved him. Drawing on their memories, Bragg reconstructs the life of an unlettered roofer who kept food on his family's table through the worst of the Depression; a moonshiner who drank exactly one pint for every gallon he sold; an unregenerate brawler who could sit for hours with a baby in the crook of his arm.

In telling Charlie's story, Bragg conjures up the backwoods hamlets of Georgia and Alabama in the years when the roads were still dirt and real men never cussed in front of ladies. A masterly family chronicle and a human portrait so vivid you can smell the cornbread and whiskey, *Ava's Man* is unforgettable.

"As toothsome as a catfish supper. [Bragg] is every bit the equal of . . . Harper Lee and Truman Capote." — *People*

"[Bragg has] a true gift for great storytelling (the kind . . . that makes you think it's just a plain old story, until he gets to the end and you're either weeping or covered with goosebumps)." — *The Times-Picayune*

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Vintage

Rick Bragg

Author of *All Over But the Shoutin'*

NATIONAL BESTSELLER



AVA'S MAN

"It is hard to think of a writer who reminds us more forcefully and wonderfully of what people and families are all about." — *The New York Times Book Review*