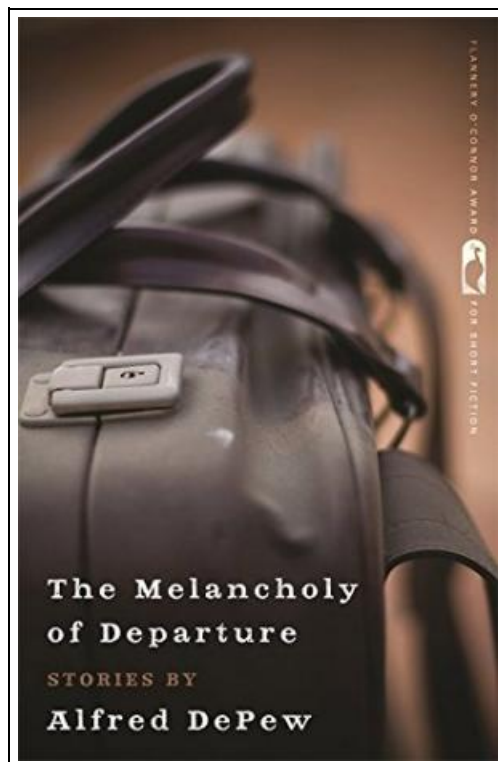


## The Melancholy of Departure



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## THE MELANCHOLY OF DEPARTURE



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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