Minding the Store



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Entertaining and illuminating literary selections that explore the ethical quandaries of the workplace, collected by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Moral Lives of Children," ""They don't know me anymore.""--Willy Loman, in "Death of a Salesman" In a course he taught at Harvard Business School and elsewhere for many years, esteemed psychiatrist Robert Coles asked future money market managers and risk arbitrageurs to pause for a semester and reflect on the ethical dimensions of their chosen profession. Now, for corporate professionals, armchair entrepreneurs, and other students of commerce, Coles has gathered a generous and stimulating collection of classic literary reflections on the ethical and spiritual predicaments of the business world. From John Cheever's descriptions of a businessman who endures a moral crisis after stealing a neighbor's wallet and Gwendolyn Parker's "Uppity Buppie," in which an African American woman ascends to the upper ranks of corporate America, to "Death of a Salesman" and Tolstoy's "Master and Man," "Minding the Store" offers a richly human vision of the business world. With selections by, among others, John Updike, Flannery O'Connor, William Carlos Williams, Edith Wharton, and Vladimir Nabokov, Coles gives us the essential literary gems that illuminate the human predicaments of commerce and the moral quandaries of the marketplace.

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目录:
Minding the Store_下载链接1_
标签
评论
 Minding the Store_下载链接1_
书评
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