



# Prisoner's Dilemma

By Richard Powers

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Something is wrong with Eddie Hobson Sr., father of four, sometime history teacher, quiz master, black humorist and virtuoso invalid. His recurring fainting spells have worsened, and with his ingrained aversion to doctors, his worried family tries to discover the nature of his sickness. Meanwhile, in private, Eddie puts the finishing touches on a secret project he calls Hobbstown, a place that he promises will save him, the world and everything that's in it.

A dazzling novel of compassion and imagination, *Prisoner's Dilemma* is a story of the power of invalid experience.

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## Prisoner's Dilemma By Richard Powers Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Eddie Hobson Sr. is paterfamilias personified. A retired history teacher in DeKalb, Ill., he has raised his children Artie, Lily, Rachel and Eddie Jr. by talking to them in riddles and plaguing them with questions and tests. After a lifetime of being ruled by this petty tyrant, the now-grown children find it almost impossible, and painfully distressing, to concede that Pop might be really ill. But the virtuoso invalid and black comedian keeps passing out, and it seems the family must accept the inevitable. Artie, who worships the old man while hating him, describes his father's slow decline, interspersing his account with childhood memories and details of the mysterious dictaphone recordings that Pop has been making in private for so long. The recordings that Artie listens to secretly at last reveal the father to the son. Skillfully alternating lively colloquial dialogue with Artie's fluid, elegiac recollections, Powers, author of the praised *Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance* brings each member of the family to vivid, quirky life in this accomplished narrative. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Eddie Hobson is a former history teacher who cannot escape the past. Seared by a painful experience during World War II, he develops a mysterious illness that gradually alienates him from even his own wife and children. Hobson's illness has grim physical symptoms, but its essence is "his need to love people without knowing whether they deserved it." Interlaced with a third-person anatomy of the Hobson family are the first-person musings of a son trying to understand his father's eventual death. Although his subject is pathology, Powers provides a dazzling display of wit (riddles, triple puns, and palindromes) that may entertain, but also contributes to the themes of this remarkably well-crafted novel. Albert E. Wilhelm, Tennessee Technological Univ., Cookeville  
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Review

"We happily pitch ourselves into Scobie Malone's wonderful adventures in Aussie-land...real thrills and surprising laughs."--"New York Times"  
"When the ruminants and lucre-chasers are growing lichen on library shelves, Jon Cleary will continue to be read."--"Los Angeles Times"  
"The Malone stories come alive through their setting...Cleary's writing is seamless and his plots imaginative and mature."--"Miami Herald"  
"Enough plot twists and conspiracy-making ingredients to satisfy the most demanding aficionado of the genre."--"Irish Times"  
"The business of a novelist is to tell a story. Jon Cleary has that talent in abundance."--"Sunday Express"

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Sally Oneal:**

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make these survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a e-book your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading the book, we give you that Prisoner's Dilemma book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

**George Seal:**

Here thing why this particular Prisoner's Dilemma are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good however it depends in the content from it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Prisoner's Dilemma giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no publication that similar with Prisoner's Dilemma. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your technique home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Prisoner's Dilemma in e-book can be your alternate.

**Nicole Reagan:**

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**Christina Webb:**

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