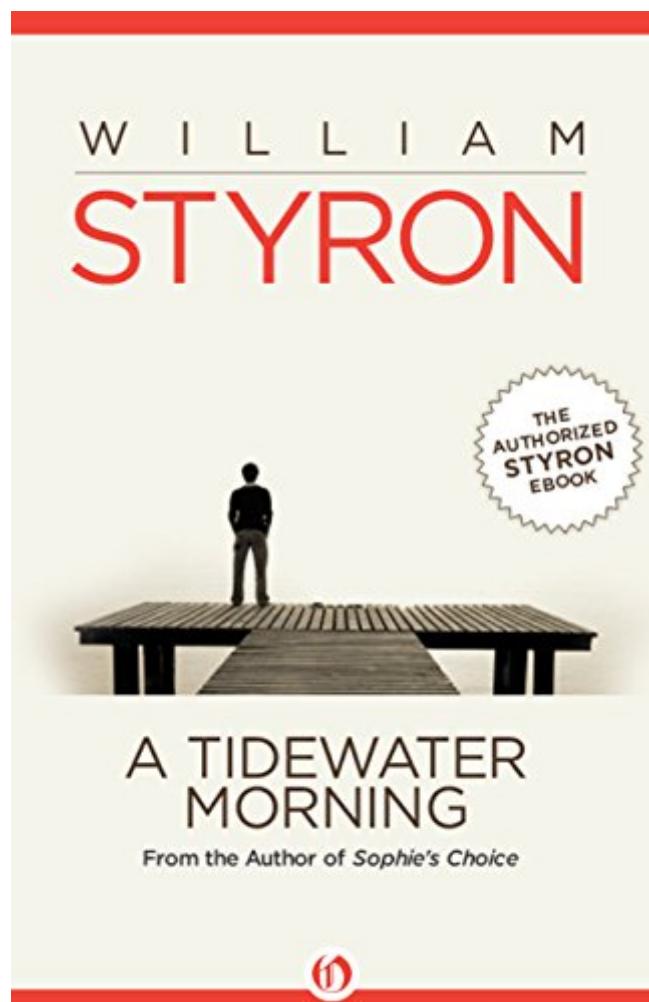


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# A Tidewater Morning: Three Tales From Youth



## Synopsis

Three autobiographically inspired novellas by Styron that tell the story of a young writerâ™s journey to adulthood. William Styronâ™s *A Tidewater Morning* features three novellas centered around budding novelist Paul Whitehurstâ™s coming of age during the Great Depression and Second World War. They convey Whitehurstâ™s struggle to cope with his motherâ™s terminal cancer, his view of the strained racial relations in the pre-war American South, and his anxiety as a marine preparing to land on the beaches of Okinawa. Each novella weaves together the transformative experiences of Whitehurstâ™s early life with Styronâ™s signature deep historical insight, underscoring how the significance of the past informs the present. This ebook features a new illustrated biography of William Styron, including original letters, rare photos, and never-before-seen documents from the Styron family and the Duke University Archives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I first met William Styron when a mutual acquaintance - Sophie's Choice - introduced us at The Modern Library's list of Top 100 Novels. I bumped into him later with his friend Darkness Visible at

The Modern Library's list of Top 100 Non-Fiction Books. I thought I knew him by the time he told me all about The Confessions of Nat Turner. And so it was that I chose to meet him again on A Tidewater Morning at my local Salvation Army bookstore. My cost of admission was \$0.25 and I decided to meet him again because his alma mater, Duke University, won the 2010 NCAA Basketball Championship. Styron's an interesting dude. Both he and his father suffered from depression and his mother died from breast cancer when he was 14. He was a Marine, an editor at McGraw-Hill, and once provoked an employer to fire him so he could write his first novel. He died from pneumonia in Martha's Vineyard at the age of 81. Above the door to his studio he posted a quote from Gustave Flaubert: "Be regular and orderly in your life so that you may be violent and original in your work." As I read the three stories that make up A Tidewater Morning I was struck by how unreal his descriptions, characterizations, and dialog were to my senses. Yet, it all works beautifully in the end. The greatest triumph of this book is the way these three stories create an arc of experience that rips your perceived ideas of meaning from the fabric of your life and then sews them back together with even stronger stitching because you made the effort to reach, and read, the title story. I didn't think A Tidewater Morning compared very well to his other writings until I sat down to write this. But it does.

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