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Biography

Born **Loysé Youth Deal** in Pontotoc, Mississippi,^[2] Deal attended Macedonia Consolidated High School, after which he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and fought forest fires in the Pacific Northwest. Before he began writing, his checkered career included work on a showboat, hauling sawdust for a lumber mill, harvesting wheat, a position as auditor for the United States Department of Labor, a telephone solicitor, copywriter, and an anti-aircraft fire control instructor in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

In 1946, Deal enrolled in the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. While there he published his first short story, "Exodus". His creative writing professor was Hudson Strode. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree within three years, then enrolled in Mexico City College for graduate study.

It was not until 1956 that Deal decided to become a full-time writer. Among the pseudonyms he used were Loyse Deal, Lee Borden, Leigh Borden, and Michael Sunga.

A prolific writer, Deal penned twenty-one novels and more than one hundred short stories, many of which appeared in *McCall's*, *Collier's*, *Saturday Review*, and *Good Housekeeping*. His work has been translated into twenty different languages. A major theme in his canon is man's mystical attachment to the earth and his quest for land, inspired by his family's loss of their property during the Great Depression. The majority of his work is set in the small hamlets of the Deep South. His novel *The Insolent Breed* served as the basis for the Broadway musical *A Joyful Noise*. His novel *Dunbar's Cove* was the basis for the plot of the film *Wild River*, starring Lee Remick and Montgomery Clift.^[3] From 1970 Deal also published, under the name "Anonymous", a series of erotic novels with pronoun titles such as *Her* and *Him*.^{[4][5]}

Personal life

Deal was married three times. He married his first wife, Lilian Slobotsky (variously Slobotzky), while studying in Mexico in 1949.^[6] According to one source, the couple had one daughter before the marriage ended in divorce.^[7] In 1952 he married his second wife, Babs Hodges (1929-2004), who was also a published author.^[8] They had one son and two daughters before divorcing in 1975.^[7] He was survived by his third wife, Patricia, whom he married in 1984.^[9]

Borden Deal	
Born	Loyse Youth Deal October 12, 1922 Pontotoc, Mississippi, U.S.
Died	January 22, 1985 (aged 62) Sarasota, Florida, U.S.
Occupation	Author
Nationality	American
Alma mater	University of Alabama
Notable works	<i>The Insolent Breed</i> ; <i>Dunbar's Cove</i>
Spouses	Lilian Slobotsky (1949–c.1950; divorced) Babs Hodges (1952– 1975; divorced) Patricia Deal (1984– 1985; his death)

Death

Deal died of a heart attack in Sarasota, Florida on January 22, 1985, aged 62.^[1]

The papers of Borden and Babs Hodges Deal are held at Boston University.^{[10][11]}

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- *Dunbar's Cove*, 1957
- *Search for Surrender*, 1957
- *Killer in the Mansion*, 1957
- *Secret of Sylvia*, 1958 (as Lee Borden)
- *The Insolent Breed*, 1959
- *Dragon's Wine*, 1960
- *The Devil's Whisper*, 1961 (as Lee Borden)
- *The Spangled Road*, 1962
- *Antaeus*, 1962
- *The Loser* (New South Saga #1), 1964
- *The Tobacco Men*, 1965
- *A Long Way to Go*, 1965
- *The Advocate* (New South Saga #2), 1968
- *Interstate*, 1970
- *A Neo-Socratic Dialogue on the Reluctant Empire*, 1971
- *The Winner* (New South Saga #3), 1973
- *The Other Room*, 1974
- *Bluegrass*, 1976
- *Legend of the Bluegrass*, 1977 (as Leigh Borden)
- *Adventure*, 1978
- *The Taste of Watermelon*, 1979
- *There Were Also Strangers*, 1985
- *The Platinum Man*, 1986

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External links

- [The Mississippi Writers Page](#) Biographical Note (Department of English, University of Mississippi)
 - [The Mississippi Writers and Musicians Project](#) Article, including photo and portrait of the author as well as extensive bibliographic details (Starkville High School, Starkville, Mississippi)
 - [The FictionMags Index](#); Stories, Listed by Author Bibliographical listings; Periodicals
 - [The Big Bajor Official Website](#) Official website for a short film based on Borden Deal's short story, The Big Bajor, about a young gypsy woman trying to swindle a fortune from a country spinster
 - [Works by or about Borden Deal](#) in libraries (WorldCat catalog)
 - [Borden Deal](#) at [Find a Grave](#)
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