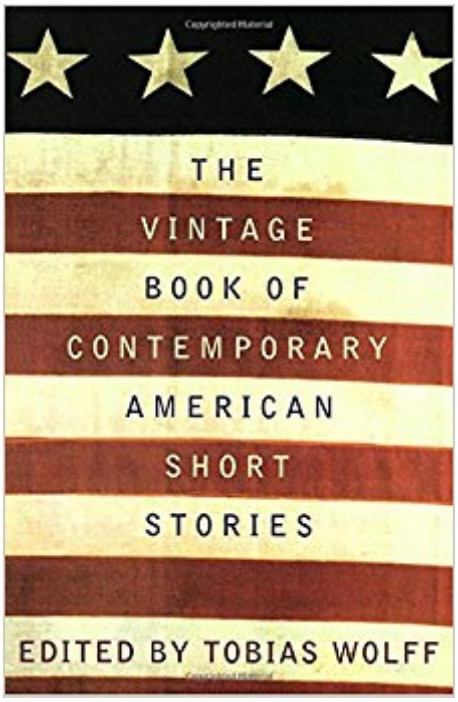
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The Vintage Book Of Contemporary American Short Stories



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Synopsis

Variously funny, frightening, poignant, and exhilarating, these collected stories displays the best American writers at the peak of their powers and the national narrative at its most eloquent, truthful, and inventive.The thirty-three stories in this volume prove that American short fiction maybe be our most distinctive national art form. As selected and introduced by Tobias Wolff, they also make up an alternate map of the United States that represents not just geography but narrative traditions, cultural heritage, and divergent approaches. Contributors and stories include: Mary Gaitskill, "A Romantic Weekend"; Ã Â Andre Dubus, "The Fat Girl"; Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried"; Raymond Carver, "Cathedral"; Joyce Carol Oates, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"; Mona Simpson, "Lawns";Ã Â Ã Â Ann Beattie, "A Vintage Thunderbird"; Jamaica Kincaid, "Girl"; Stuart Dybek, "Chopin in Water"; Ron Hansen, "Wickedness"; Denis Johnson, "Emergency"; Edward P. Jones, "The First Day"; John L'Heureux, "Departures"; Ralph Lombreglia, "Men Under Water"; Robert Olmstead, "Cody's Story"; Jayne Anne Phillips, "Home"; Susan Power, "Moonwalk"; Amy Tan, "Rules of the Game"; Stephanie Vaughn, "Dog Heaven"; Joy Williams, "Train"; Dorothy Allison, "River of Names"; Richard Bausch, "All The Way in Flagstaff, Arizona"; and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Editor Wolff (This Boy's Life, LJ 1/89) describes the stories he selected for this volume as representing a reaction to the postmodern, self-conscious fictional attitude emerging from the Sixties. Realistic and convincing, these voices of the past decade and a half create a sense of

kinship that remains with readers as insistently as do their own memories. This collection gives us 33 well-chosen stories. Side by side with classics by favorite writers-Raymond Carver, Ann Beattie, Richard Ford-are recent contributions by Dennis Johnson, Allan Gurganus, Thom Jones, and others. While these diverse stories defy categorization as an identifiable trend in writing, they do share exuberance and clarity, offering depictions of often painful contemporary situations softened by humor and honesty. Highly recommended.Eleanor Mitchell Arizona State Univ., West PhoenixCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

For an enthralling collection that includes such classics as Raymond Carver’s "Cathedral," "The Fat Girl" by Andre Dubus, "A Vintage Thunderbird" by Ann Beattie, and the more recent "Rules of the Game" from Amy Tan’s book The Joy Luck Club, Wolff has selected finely crafted stories by writers at the peak of their form. In addition, Kate Braverman’s contribution is a consummate example of the intensely realized situations all these stories unfailingly deliver. Her protagonist’s powerful attraction to Lenny, a sleazy yet seductive hood, demonstrates a capacity for self-destruction that reverberates long after reading "Tall Tales from the Mekong Delta." These satisfying stories validate the robust state of affairs of contemporary short fiction. Alice Joyce

I thoroughly enjoyed this collection of short stories. On the whole, most of this writing is quite gritty, very gripping and definitely memorable. This book was originally loaned to me by a friend, and I ended up purchasing a year later after recommending it to the book club I am a part of. Just as enjoyable the second time around, the stories provided plenty of discussion topics for our group. Would absolutely recommend this to a friend, the quality of writing was excellent!

I love short stories because my reading time is limited. This book has enough entries to let me choose. I know some of the authors, but am discovering others. I have only read a couple and look forward to reading them all.

Predictable. Many stories, some good. As for the construction of the book, good. Not too heavy. Easy to hold. Print not too small. I like it.

Great book that contains a wide range of American stories. Needed this for my English college course and it came in excellent condition like described.

An excellent and varied collection of short stories!

stories I have read are good

Great collection

as expected/described

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