



The Oxford Book of Modern Women's Stories

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"The inadequate acknowledgement of women short story writers in standard anthologies is a cause for wonder or affront. How else, indeed, can you view it, given the riches overlooked?" So states editor Patricia Craig in her introduction to *The Oxford Book of Modern Women's Stories*, a rich, wide-ranging collection that, at last, redresses this historical imbalance by bringing together forty examples of the very best women's stories--from established authors such as Edith Wharton, Virginia Woolf, Eudora Welty, and Katherine Mansfield, to such modern masters as Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, Bharati Mukherjee, and Amy Tan.

Here readers will find humor, passion, eccentricity, forcefulness, elan, intellectual vigor, subversion--indeed every shading of tone and mood, from ironic detachment to full-blooded engagement. Each writer has her own, perfectly realized angle of vision, whether it's the zestfulness of Angela Carter, the breathtaking evocations of Willa Cather, the quirkiness of Grace Paley, or the pungency of Flannery O'Connor.

Breaking with tradition, editor Patricia Craig offers few stories about traditional "women's" topics. Instead, the entries in this collection range from an unforgettable tale of racism in South Africa to explorations of adultery, immigration, the importance of cultural identity, and the rootlessness of American cities. Craig also includes some provocative offerings from outside the mainstream of twentieth century fiction--a ghost story by Edith Wharton, a delightful fairy tale, and several engaging historical pieces.

Eloquent and captivating, *The Oxford Book of Modern Women's Stories* offers a dazzling assortment of classic stories and overlooked gems that will amuse, intrigue, and challenge every lover of fine fiction.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

British editor Craig aims here to "indicate in a single volume the extent of women's contributions to the short story form." While no such summing up seems possible, this excellent book goes a long way toward reaching her goal. Beginning with Willa Cather's classic "Paul's Case" (1905) and ranging through the 1990s, these 40 selections confirm the literary brilliance of many of their creators and, at the least, the deftness of craft of others. Stars of the collection are Alice Munro's highly charged re-creation of a woman's life in "Meneseteung"; Nadine Gordimer's 1956 story, the daringly candid, still timely "Which New Era Would That Be?"; "First Love" a darkly luminous tale from Eudora Welty; the deliciously witty, superbly crafted "The Rehabilitation of Ginevra Leake," by Hortense Calisher; the earthy, vigorous "An Interest in Life," by Grace Paley. More memoir than fiction, Mary McCarthy's "Yonder Peasant, Who Is He?" makes the heart quake; Flannery O'Connor's familiar "Good Country People" packs a wallop no matter how many times one has read it; Cynthia Ozick's "The Butterfly and the Traffic Light" gleams with stunning aperçus. Margaret Atwood addresses the irony of youthful dreams in "Hair Jewellery," and Joyce Carol Oates's trademark erotic violence distinguishes "Scene of Passion and Despair." A clutch of typically British stories by Jane Gardam, Stevie Smith, Angela Carter and F.M. Mayor may be a bit less appealing to American readers, but Katherine Mansfield's "Je ne parle pas français" remains riveting and Fay Weldon's sardonic "In the Great War" is the last word on women's lib. Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, Bharati Mukherjee and Anjana Appachana limn pictures of their compatriots at home and as emigrants to other shores; Edna O'Brien evokes rural Ireland; and a chapter from Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* offers a Chinese-American woman's view of the world, rounding out a splendid collection.

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From [Booklist](#)

Mystified by the apparent disregard for women writers in standard anthologies, and in an attempt to correct this oversight, editor Patricia Craig has compiled a lavish, diverse collection of stories by bringing together 40 of the best examples of the genre. Included are works by the likes of Edith Wharton, Virginia Woolf, and Eudora Welty, as well as works by more contemporary writers such as Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, and Amy Tan. Attempting to stay away from so-called women's topics, Craig has chosen stories that offer humor, pathos, eccentricity, mystery, intrigue, absurdity, and tragedy, all the while dealing with an assortment of modern predicaments. "Afterward," by Edith Wharton, is an elegant, chilling ghost story; Nadine Gordimer's "Which New Era Would That Be?" is an account of racism in South Africa; and Christina Stead delivers a brief narrative reflecting pre-McCarthy era political and social idealism in "UNO 1945." "The Day Mr. Prescott Died," by Sylvia Plath, is an earthy, realistic look at the death of a neighbor; while "Irish Revel," by Edna O'Brien, is a lighthearted look at a shy, young Irish girl's first party. In uniting these equally strong yet incredibly diverse voices, Craig has achieved an exquisite balance between social, political, and sexual themes that allows each writer a strong, individual voice. This book is a stunning achievement that will linger in the mind of the reader long after the last story is read. *Kathleen Hughes*

Review

'fulfills the something-for-everyone ideal ... Editor Patricia Craig has assembled a twentieth century goody bag ... absorbing anthology.'

Carolyn Hitt, *Western Mail*

'she has brought together work from some of the finest women's writers of the century ... anyone wanting to

get a real grounding in women's fiction would need to read them all - a far from unpleasant task whether you are a feminist or not'

Madeleine Burton, Hitchin Gazette

'Pat Craig has brought together 40 stories of the highest quality and appeal from many of this century's best women writers. This is a highly-enjoyable collection, chronicling a century's worth of women's short story writing in all its richness. Throughout, the emphasis lies firmly, as indeed

it should, on the quality of the writing, rather than on the fact that these stories were all written by women.'

Lucy Hallam, Yorkshire Post

'varied and exciting read ... She has structured the stories cleverly ... If you want a series of refreshing reads, this book is a good birthday present.'

Michelene Wandor, Hampstead and Highgate Express

'a dazzling collection of stories by 40 of this century's best women writers ... there are treats here to suit all tastes'

Diana Orton, Home and Country, January 1995

'door-stopping ... its purpose is simply to redress the gender imbalance in most short story collections ...

Here, the quality of writing does excuse arbitrary selection.'

Andy Beckett, The Independent on Sunday

'The power of these stories is awesome; each stands out, singular and strong, framed by its neighbours yet not falling into its shadow.'

The Irish Times

'some of the best of women's writing in one collection ... Humour, passion, subversion, hope, despair - all human life is there.'

Grania McFadden, Belfast Telegraph

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shannon Bland:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a e-book. The book The Oxford Book of Modern Women's Stories it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book offers high quality.

Oren Nelson:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make anyone to

understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to you personally is The Oxford Book of Modern Women's Stories this book consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This book was represented how does the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book acceptable all of you.

Justin Pritchett:

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