

50 Great Short Stories By Milton Crane Henry --Summer of the beautiful white horse / William Saroyan --Other two / Edith Wharton --Theft / Katherine Anne Porter --Good man is hard to find / Flannery O'Connor --Man of the house / Frank O'Connor --Man who shot snapping turtles / Edmund Wilson --Gioconda smile / Aldous Huxley --Curfew tolls / Stephen Vincent Benet --Father wakes up the village / Clarence Day --Ivy Day in the committee room / James Joyce --Chrysanthemums / John Steinbeck --Door / E. I particularly enjoyed Virginia Woolf's haunted house Thomas Wolfe's Only the Dead Know Brooklyn Dorothy Parker's standard of living Shirley Jackson's Lottery which I had already read and especially Francis Steegmuller's The Foreigner among others. A random selection: Putois for the comic human nature A Good Man is Hard to Find for its remarkable cynicism The Gioconda Smile for society gumption and uptight drama of uncanny involuntary humour and The Courting of Dinah Shadd and The Chrysanthemums just because. Among the classics I had previously read I was delighted to find both unfamiliar stories by familiar authors and unfamiliar stories by unfamiliar authors that I intend to read more of. The variety in style and subject is enormous but all these stories have one point in common—the enduring quality of the writing which places them among the masterpieces of the world's fiction. Wells --Foreigner / Francis Steegmuller --Thrawn Janet / Robert Louis Stevenson --Chaser / John Collier

50 Great Short Stories WHAT MAKES A GREAT SHORT STORY?

The sudden unforgettable revelation of character; the vision of a world through another's eyes; the glimpse of truth; the capture of a moment in time. Primarily it was a wonderful way to keep my at that time multi-tasking by visual culture addled jumpy brain engaged long enough to absorb one contained narrative but I also steadfastly relied on it to transport me to a great wealth of worlds and settings to plant me smack-dab in the heads of fictitious strangers who naturally didn't remain strangers for long. In hindsight though I see now I was in fact unconsciously adopting the mindset of the journeyman (though initially not in the sense that I actually wanted to apply what I learned to writing myself): Start small first dissect the mechanics of fiction in its most compressed format and only then proceed on to bigger - yet not necessarily greater - things. Short stories have always been somewhat neglected or found to be inconsequential regarded as something most writers grudgingly have to dabble in to beef up their income between larger projects. Which turned out to be a not insignificant number pity my wallet! For lovers of the format with a classical bent Milton Crane's - whose name without fail manages to remind me of lovable dweeb Niles Crane from Frasier but that's neither here or there - 1952 anthology has been a mainstay for more than half a century. Its inherent constraints reveal themselves pretty quickly: the cut-off point at 1952 (thus missing a large chunk of 20th century writing) and the primary focus on Anglo-Saxon writers with the odd French and Russian one thrown in for good measure being the most apparent ones. Some of my favorites as follows:

- **Only the Dead Know Brooklyn by Thomas Wolfe** 5 stars
- **The Masque of the Red Death by Edgar Allan Poe** 5 stars
- **A Good Man is Hard to Find by Flannery O'Connor** 5 stars
- **How Beautiful with Shoes by Wilbur Daniel Steele** 5 stars

This four stories are worth every single penny in purchasing this collection!!! Milton Crane has done a great job. The Garden Party 1937 by Katherine Mansfield: Laura Sheridan feels guilty when her well-to-do family goes ahead with a party on the day they learn of the death of a neighbor who is poor. The Courting of Dinah Shadd 1890 by Rudyard Kipling: This seemed more like a chapter pulled from a larger novel and it was a little hard to get into because of the thick dialect used by the Mulvaney character. Looking Back 1951 by Guy de Maupassant: A contessa and a priest discuss their paths and conclude that love and pain are inextricably combined but if you don't have them in your life you don't have a life 17. The Other Two 1904 by Edith Wharton: Although certainly more scandalous in 1904 the story still seems relatable today; about a man who's keeps running into his twice-divorced wife's ex-husbands socially. The Man Who Shot Snapping Turtles 1942 by Edmund Wilson: Not sure why I liked this weird story of a guy obsessed with protecting the ducks in his pond from snapping turtles. The Gioconda Smile 1921 by Aldous Huxley: Huxley uses a modern-day (to him) woman to imagine the type of scenario that might account for the much-discussed expression worn by the Mona Lisa. Ivy Day in the Committee Room 1946 by James Joyce: I have never read anything by Joyce including this story which was the first one in this collection that I just couldn't get through. White --Upheaval / Anton Chekhov --How

beautiful with shoes / Wilbur Daniel Steele --Haunted house / Virginia Woolf --Catbird seat / James Thurber --Schartz-Metterklume method / H. Munro --Death of a Bachelor / Arthur Schnitzler -- Apostate / George Milburn --Phoenix / Sylvia Townsend Warner --That evening sun / William Faulkner --Law / Robert M. Coates --Tale / Joseph Conrad --Girl from Red Lion.

Of course the quality of the stories compiled in this edition are excellent: they were written by the masters, But that doesn't mean that all of them were a pleasure to read: Some were fantastic: I really enjoyed a solid third of the stories there but only a third, But a lot of them were uncomfortable to read because of racism and sexism: particularly William Faulkner's *That Evening Sun* and Aldous Huxley's *The Gioconda Smile*: The writers can be excused since they were products of an earlier less tolerant age: And I suppose the editor can too since it was published in '52, But it's a bit awkward to read the collection as literary essentials, Should republish new edition relabeled as *50 Great Short Stories for Old White Guys*, Too much mysterious jewelry and women (both wives and governesses) as ornament, A few gems but I can't be bothered to go check which ones they were, 9780553277456 A marvelous collection of some of the best short-stories ever written, Includes many famous authors known to all of us and a few authors I wondered why I had not heard of well before now: I have reviewed most of the stories separately as I have read them as I spread this book over the expanse of a full year: An exercise of minimalism of trained imagination and crafted words, All stories have their flavour and exposing that simple truth alone the book unveils a great deal about voice. It also relaxes the writing muscle shaving off the edge of theme - the hovering nemesis, 9780553277456 What a wonderful collection of short stories! While all the stories might be considered classics there was quite a range, Stories to make you think about life and stories to make you laugh. There are tales of horror (Poe) alternate history and speculative fiction (not sci-fi really think along the lines of Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery*): While I enjoyed every story my favorites were *The Other Side of the Hedge* by E. M. Forster *Putois* by Anatole France *The Schartz-Metterklume Method* by Saki (H. Munro) and *The Chaser* by John Collier (the final story and a great way to end a book). 9780553277456 *50 Great Short Stories* is a comprehensive selection from the world's finest short fiction. The authors represented range from Hawthorne Maupassant and Poe through Henry James Conrad Aldous Huxley and James Joyce to Hemingway Katherine Anne Porter Faulkner E. Garden party / Katherine Mansfield --Three-day blow / Ernest Hemingway --Standard of living / Dorothy Parker --Saint / V, Forster --Brooksmith / Henry James --Jockey / Carson McCullers --Courting of Dinah Shadd / Rudyard Kipling --Shot / Alexander Pushkin translated by T. Keane --Graven Image / John O'Hara --Putois / Anatole France translated by Frederic Chapman --Only the dead know Brooklyn / Thomas Wolfe --A, Laidler / Max Beerbohm --Lottery / Shirley Jackson --Masque of the Red Death / Edgar Allan Poe -- Looking back / Guy de Maupassant PA / H. Mencken --Main currents of American thought / Irwin Shaw --Ghosts / Lord Dunsany --Minister's black veil / Nathaniel Hawthorne --String of beads / W, Somerset Maugham --Golden honeymoon / Ring Lardner --Man who could work miracles / H, All this the short story at its best is uniquely capable of conveying for in its very shortness lies its greatest strength. It can discover depths of meaning in the casual word or action; it can suggest in a page what could not be stated in a volume. -- Milton Crane In my fledgling first few years as a more dedicated reader of prose the short story anthology was my go-to format, The grand novel to a young somewhat neurotic compulsively anal me was off bounds for a while until I had proven my mettle by consuming shorter works, This approach - even though its execution was far too strictly observed by me - in the end served me well. During that process acquaintances were made with many a writer some entirely unsuspected: At the very least I discovered more of them than if I would have delved into the real meat of their oeuvre first. A stance I -and masters of the form - have always heavily disagreed with but I won't further expound on that here: In short it helped me in making my taste reveal itself to me: Soon if a bit rabidly I started acquiring the collected works of those individuals who managed to speak to me: Running the gamut from technically sound yet slightly tedious to masterfully invigorating an anthology like this is bound to be a bit of a muddled affair, Tough choices have to be made of course and the editor must be applauded for not lazily picking just the best-

known predictable examples, How it plays to a modern audience I haven't the foggiest idea, A supplement to Crane's original selection might be in order here: Still if you're looking for a comprehensive anthology featuring almost all of the classic masters of the form you could do far worse: Dip away I say! 9780553277456 First off this book isn't a collection of 50 great short stories: It's a collection of 50 well-written stories but it takes more than solid grammar to slam out an awesome story, A few shining stars had me signing into Goodreads to add more books by those writers, The majority of stories have a snobbish white male pro-American perspective, If you like stuff from the New Yorker then this book is for you, For any writers out there I recommend this book for its strong writing, It's not much of a leisure read and after a while you'll feel like you're back in high school English class, I would have given this book a much higher rating if it wasn't for all the dull stories that dragged this one down: 9780553277456 Indeed great short stories!! Great names like O'Connor Steinbeck Poe and Hemingway doesn't disappoint: Not always easy to read but if you are committed to investing yourself in this short stories then your time and patience will be rewarded. A colorful vibrant and diverse blend: fantasy horror romanze thriller crime classics and much more! Reading these stories you will see and experience the world with many eyes!!! Happy reading: The Three-Day Blow 1925 by Ernest Hemingway: During a storm two young men sit in a cabin in Missouri getting shitfaced drunk, Then they decide to grab their shotguns and go out hunting. The Standard of Living 1941 by Dorothy Parker: I love Dorothy Parker so much! I defy anyone to read this story and not picture Mike Myers as Dr. Evil when he discovers a million dollars isn't what it used to be. The Saint 1947 by VS Pritchett: A man describes how at age 17 he lost his faith in the Church of the Last Purification of Toronto Canada, The Other Side of the Hedge 1947 by EM Forster: This one was kind of like an abstract painting different people probably see different things. For me it was about the question of progress and technology - at what point does it start to detract from the human experience: Brooksmith 1892 by Henry James: Having tried and failed to read several of James' novels I'm happy to find that I can tolerate and even enjoy him in short story format. This could be described as Bertie and Jeeves meet Bartleby the Scrivener, The Jockey 1941 by Carson McCullers: The first in this collection where I had my usual reaction to short stories, I have no idea what the point of this one was or why it's considered great, But after settling into the rhythm it's a satisfying story about a cursed union. Russian dude nurses a grudge and practices shooting; then declines to kill his nemesis when he has the chance. Graven Image 1943 by John O'Hara: Perfect illustration of my college Marketing professor's favorite phrase: When you make the sale stop talking. Putois 1915 by Anatole France: If you're a M*A*S*H fan think Captain Tuttle; Seinfeld fans think Susie. Only the Dead Know Brooklyn 1932 by Thomas Wolfe: Maybe the dead also know what the point of this story was or why it's considered great, Laider 1920 by Max Beerbohm: A guy on vacation gets fooled big time by a fellow guest who claims he can read palms, The Lottery 1948 by Shirley Jackson: Of COURSE I'm reading this one again. The Masque of the Red Death 1842 by Edgar Allan Poe: Now THAT was a pandemic: The Man Higher Up 1908 by O Henry: There's a sucker born every minute sometimes you're the windshield and sometimes you're the bug: A long wordy joke that took a long time to get to the punchline. The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse 1938 by William Saroyan: The title pretty much says it all except that now I want to read everything this man ever wrote, Theft 1930 by Katherine Anne Porter: For me a forgettable story about the theft of a purse. A Good Man is Hard to Find 1953 by Flannery O'Connor: Wow! This is one of those famous short stories that I was aware of but never read: I always assumed it was about dating and trying to find a husband, The Man of the House 1949 by Frank O'Connor: a young Irish boy a good boy does a very naughty thing and is forgiven by his mother: Then he does a 180 and nixes the ducks to build a canned turtle soup empire, The Curfew Tolls 1935 by Stephen Vincent Benet: A thought-provoking story about how different the world might be if certain men were born just a few years sooner or later. I'm at the halfway point! It took me 9 months to read the first 25, This was a birthday present and I want to finish it by my NEXT birthday. Father Wakes Up the Village 1935 by Clarence Day: Obnoxious and unlikeable story about a jerk obsessed with having ice in his drink excerpted from Life with Father, I tried watching that movie a few times because it

seemed like something I would like but based on this story it makes sense that it didn't work for me[1]

Translated by H.N.P. Sloman --Man higher up / O.B.H. 9780553277456 What a slog. Took me um three months to get through. Dreary. Too much racism sometimes addressed sometimes accepted. Too much alcohol. Very Western usually bleak or at least bleary. 9780553277456 For writers this book is an exercise.H.B. White Saroyan and O'Connor.S. Pritchett --Other side of the hedge / E.M.V.L.G. Self-denial thy name is Tristan or so it seemed. Surely this can be done. Within the entire spectrum of human emotion is contained.Some of the stories were dreadfully boring. The rest were so-so pretty decent and Okay.This collection lacks in variety. I like a little controversy in my reading. The excessively safe themes made this book bland.Dean;) 9780553277456 What a fucking collection. 9780553277456 1.2. They discuss baseball books and women.3.4. Funny and poignant.5.6.7.8.9. The Shot 1831 by Aleksandr Pushkin: Meh.10.11.12.13. A. V. 14. It's as chilling the 50th time as the first.15. Masks and lockdowns didn't work then either.16.18.19.20.21. Holy cow was I wrong. Brutal and disturbing I'll never forget this one.22.23.24. Very cool.25.AND. So I'll have to accelerate a bit.26.27. Even the title bored me. 9780553277456

