



100 Selected Stories

O. Henry

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This collection of 100 of O Henry's finest stories is a showcase for the sheer variety of one of America's best and best-loved short story writers. The variety of the stories is amazing; O Henry is as at home describing life south of the Rio Grande as he is chronicling the activities and concerns of 'the four million' ordinary citizens who inhabited turn-of-the-century New York. They are marked by coincidence and surprise endings as well as the compassion and high humour that have made O Henry's stories popular for the last century.

100 Selected Stories Details

Date : Published May 5th 1995 by Wordsworth Editions (first published 1930)

ISBN : 9781853262418

Author : O. Henry

Format : Paperback 768 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Classics, Fiction, Literature



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From Reader Review 100 Selected Stories for online ebook

Connie Snow says

It took me a very long time to slog through this book. But it was definitely worth it. I compare it to the experience of shopping in a second hand store. Everything is pretty ancient. It takes a long time to sift through all of the dust. Some of it is just quaint and irrelevant but mixed in with it all are some priceless gems definitely worth taking home. I'm glad that I wasn't required to read this in school. It makes it a new discovery for me.

Miloš Petrik says

A classic, a must read for all short fiction fiends.

Nia F. S. Kartadilaga says

100 Selected Stories of O. Henry is full of variety of social life happened in our daily life. O. Henry is well known as an author whose works are detail for its twist and plot. I found his works are simple yet meaningful and somehow funny; incredibly-exceptional experiences!

Steve says

O Henry why must you be so sesquipedalian?

Himesh says

Just flicked through a few stories and started feeling the taste of the revered author. Although a slow read, it just leaves you scratching your head at the end of every story. He doesn't confine himself to one niche, He can write about just any aspect of life and the ends of stories are marked by suspense. He takes sarcasm to a new level and the faint tanginess of comedy keeps you delighted.

Tushar says

Some of the stories are really really illuminating and intriguing. The stories kind of cast a spell that makes you think awhile after you've finished reading them. You will either end up agreeing or disagreeing with the end but you will certainly spend sometime thinking.

Tuong Cao says

On of the best books I read in 2013. Yes, it is old, it is classic, but the stories can entertain one at any time, at any place. In comparison, the book is like a gigantic panoramic masterpiece with lives interwoven, creating the light and dark sides of American society in 1800s. Comical, sad, hysterically funny, moving, charismatic, and often sarcastic, O.Henry's use of words is of the master. I literally lived through all of my emotions while reading this book. Best of all, if you are a busy person who struggle to keep up with a long-running storyline, you can enjoy this book bit by bit and it is still amazing. Highly recommend.

Pewterbreath says

I'd be lying if I claimed that I read every single story in this volume--that would take nearly a lifetime. But do I have a love for O. Henry! His stories are the perfect comfort food for a rainy day. Once you get beyond the 19th century trappings--he's got a wonderful cozy chair feel that's sort of like watching your favorite brainy sitcom. Sometimes he can be a bit mawkish, but even that's forgivable, because his scope is so delightful.

O. Henry doesn't write for depth so much as breadth, he has a knack for making the simplest actions funny and memorable--my favorite story has a couple who just got married playing with their Hansom Cab, pretending that she's a lady about town. It's just the sort of thing some lovely couple would do. Every scene is full of Norman Rockwell style Americana, and though he doesn't do any dark writing, he shows humanity just full of quirks and (mostly) benign trickery.

Going on a plane trip? Going to a cabin? This book is perfect for both.

Mohammed Masudur Rahman says

A must have book.

O Henry is my favorite short story writer, and this book brings the very best collection of his short stories together in one place.

Loved every letter in this book.

Vishal says

I always have time for a short story collection by a single author, especially when they showcase a broad spectrum of subject, characters and emotions. O Henry can certainly be considered a master of the form, and there's even a short story prize named after him.

Getting through 100 stories in just under 3 weeks is a feat I am quite proud of! OK it's testament to the time I have on my hands, but also how quickly O Henry's storytelling moves the reader along, gripping you with expert building of dramatic tension and a masterful dropping of relevant clues that keep you guessing, and make for glorious (or ironic, or vindictory) twists at the end of the story.

He covers an electric range of topics: from romance to deception to family feuds to bank robberies, war,

romance and even the Wild West. His twists range from the satisfying to the darkly ironic to the poignant and heartwarming, or just laugh out loud (yes I'm one of those introverted nutters you see on the subway chuckling and beaming into a book) hilarious. His narrators can range from cowherds to cowmen, to freedom fighters and even dogs!

Some stories like The Municipal Report are considered among the best American short stories ever written. I particularly enjoyed Roads of Destiny, which for its time must have been quite groundbreaking, developing a character's fate for three different scenarios when he reaches a fork in the road and takes a different direction each time. The Social Triangle can be considered in the same vein, one for those Inarritu-type stories where parallel lives interconnect.

My only gripe would be the archaic vocabulary used that had me grasping for my Merriam-Webster at every opportunity, and his outdated, blatantly racist views towards, well, anyone who isn't white.

The collection finishes on a chilling note, with the unfinished The Dream, a haunting and somber diversion from O Henry's usually lighthearted fare, a story of a man on Death Row who dreams of a different fate, unsure if his reality lies in prison or in the warmth of domestic bliss with his wife and children. The manuscript was found incomplete on O Henry's desk after his death, and unlike his other stories, we can only guess what expertly crafted twist this one was going to take.

Stephan says

O. Henry's short stories are filled with morals and human compassion. Destiny, karma law, and free will often intermingle with a twist or an element of surprise. Like Chekov many of the messages of O. Henry appeal to the love of humanity and call for social justice and equality. My favorite story was a heartbreakingly beautiful story called 'Roads of Destiny' (If you are a poet then you must read it). Great collection.

Safa Alamoudi says

randomly,i selected some of the short stories to read from this book...They are amaaaaaaaazing.....most of o henry's stories are marked by a surprising ending, and you can feel the good sense of humour the author has.....simply, this book is a must-have for all who became absorbed in literature.....

John says

I've read enough of these to know that they are darn good. Well written and frequently with a surprise ending.

Dhanvant says

O. Henry is hands down one of the best storytellers ever and I wanted to read him since the first time I read

one of his masterpieces "The Last Leaf".

This collection contains some of the best of O. Henry stories some good, some very and some simply great. It's like experiencing to live in so many different worlds and to feel emotions of so many different human beings.

Although all the stories are good and enjoyable these are the stories that I love from this collection:

The Gift of Magi
The Skylight Room
A Service of Love
The Cop and the Anthem
The Furnished Room
Telemachus, Friend
Brickdust Row
The Last Leaf
The Man Higher Up
A Tempered Wind
The Day Resurgent
The Poet and the Peasant
A Ramble in Aphasia
A Municipal Report
The Third Ingredient
The Head Hunter
Jimmy Hayes and Muriel
The Door of Unrest
Transformation of Martin Burney
A Double-dyed Deceiver
A Retrieved Reformation
Two Renegades
While the Auto Waits
One Thousand Dollars
The Memento
A Blackjack Bargainer
The Marionettes

This book has some of the most beautiful, some of the funniest and some of the most touching portrayals of life. It is completely worth reading. :)

Ananya Ghosh says

I love reading short stories and so I picked it up just when I laid my eyes on it. But lately, I have been a snail paced reader and this being a library issue, I had to return it unfinished. I only got to read a couple of the early stories and all of them were brilliant. I have loved O. Henry's short stories since I have read them in my school syllabi, and I loved it so much I'm planning on buying a copy and enjoying the stories at a slow and steady pace. I highly recommend this.

Carol ?? says

I'm thinking this book (at a whopping 735 pages) might be a good project for next year.

But I have just read **The Gift of the Magi** for the Retro Reads Group. As soon as I started this short story, I remembered it. Many years ago I did a creative writing course. My tutor was a big Henry fan & read this story & **The Ransom of the Red Chief** to the class as examples of beautifully written humorous short stories. knowing the punchline didn't stop me falling in love with this short story & it's message of love & giving being more important than receiving. Heart warming & heart felt. 5★.

Project Time

January 2018

A Cosmopolite in a Cafe Well I learned a new word! This story is warm, witty & timeless. 4★

Between Rounds A funny & fond telling of a world Henry knew well. 4★

The Skylight Room This one touched my heart 4.5★

February 2018

A Service of Love Very similar to The Gift of the Magi & also very timeless! 5★

The Coming Out of Maggie Yes I know it is a product of it's time but I couldn't enjoy this one - mainly because of the casual racism. 1★

June 2018

The Coming Out of Maggie left such a bad taste in my mouth, that it has taken me a while to get back to this book. Anyway...

The Cop and the Anthem The wit that Henry is known for! I laughed my socks off! 5★

Memoirs of a Yellow Dog I think I missed a few colloquialisms in this one, although I did smile a couple of times. Really twee! 2.5★

The Love-philtre of Ikey Shoenstein More of Henry's humour with a twist! 5★

Mammon & the Archer Sooo tongue-in-cheek & quirky. Loved it 5★

Springtime a la Carte Witty & rather sweet. Unlikely too, but Henry pulls it off 4.5★

From the Cabbie's Seat One of the quirky twist Henry's that I usually enjoy - but not this time. Something seemed a little off - pacing, attitude. Don't know. 2★

Anna says

Having reached page 350, I've had enough and am giving up. It isn't that O. Henry is a bad writer, that the stories aren't well crafted, or that I object to long books in principle. This collection is simply too lengthy. One hundred short stories absolutely bury the reader. It is very difficult to make it through a book of more than 700 pages with no continuity, only a series of fragments. I am not generally a fan of short stories anyway, with the huge exception of those by Borges. I was given this book as a present, so felt I had to give it a good try. I have, and it has been quite rewarding, but persisting seems like it would be masochistic.

O. Henry's stories mostly take place in urban milieus, especially New York, around the time that the 19th century became the 20th. He has an eye for peculiar incidents and interactions, which illustrate how society adapted to unprecedented urbanisation and economic transformation. In particular, I noticed the stories often show how urban spaces provide new opportunities for women whilst also condemning and sometimes endangering them for taking advantage of such opportunities. The differences between experiences of poverty for men and women, as well as single and married women, are adroitly shown. In other words, there is a lot of depressing sexism, including some frankly unpalatable romance and one very unpleasant story that glorifies domestic violence. I wouldn't say that I found O. Henry's stories funny as such, although he had some excellent turns of phrase. His wordplay is quite distinctive: 'Several of us met over spaghetti and Dutches County chianti, and swallowed indignation with the slippery forkfuls.' He also expanded my vocabulary with words like 'eleemosynary' (charitable) and 'cosmopolite' (citizen of the world).

As little postcards from a vanished past, the stories are for the most part charming and well-drawn. Their quality and tone remains remarkably consistent. They are so brief and so many, though, that the reader is left with little to cling to. If you're collecting stories that are on average seven pages in length, I really think that thirty or forty would more than suffice for a book. I respect O. Henry's productivity, though. Very impressive.

Maria Zapanta says

'But Fergus was no talker. He was brought up with the idea that to be beautiful was to make good. His conversation was about as edifying as listening to a leak dropping in a tin dish-pan at the head of the bed when you want to go to sleep; and I'm sure that whenever I heard the feeble output of throat noises that he called conversation I felt contented to be a gargoyle with a silver tongue.' ~O. Henry, *Next to Reading Matter*

Kartick Suriamoorthy says

A classic collection of O. Henry's short stories with a twist. Keeps me occupied while I am on the Munich underground and suburban trains. I love O. Henry's style of writing and the fact that he also spent time in Austin, Texas (my home for 12 years) and also the fact that he coined the term "banana republic"!!

Vaibhav says

Pretty good collection of short stories with a witty ending to nearly every story, although a lot of them rely heavily on things chiefly associated with American history and culture, it can be a little hard to understand those parts for the unfamiliar reader.

