

ZADIE SMITH
INTRODUCES THE
BURNED
CHILDREN
OF AMERICA

THE BEST YOUNG WRITERS FROM THE USA, FEATURING
ARTHUR BRADFORD MYLA GOLDBERG STACEY RICHTER JUDY BUONITZ DAVE EGERS
JEFFREY EUGENIDES AIMEE BENDER A.M. HOMES KEN KALFUS SHELLEY JACKSON
MATTHEW KLAM JONATHAN LETHEM SAM LIPSYTE GEORGE SAUNDERS RICK MOODY
JULIA SLAYIN JOANATHAN SAFRAN FOER AMANDA DAVIS DAVID FOSTER WALLACE



The Burned Children of America

Zadie Smith (editor)

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This volume brings together the most promising young American authors, with a penchant for writing about such slippery subjects as snakes, letter-writing dogs, chicken livers and indoor shopping malls.

The Burned Children of America Details

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From Reader Review The Burned Children of America for online ebook

Oscar says

Los autores incluidos en esta antología pertenecen a una generación llamada quemada, nombre proveniente del cuento 'Encarnación de una generación quemada', de David Foster Wallace. Una generación en busca de una identidad, una generación cabreada, quemada. Autores todos ellos que forman un coro melancólico, como bien dice en el epílogo Zadie Smith. La gran mayoría de esos relatos aparecieron en su momento en prestigiosas publicaciones como *New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *McSweeney's*, etc., y sus argumentos son claramente postmodernos, unas veces utilizando el realismo y otras lo fantástico, y algunos de ellos son claramente experimentales, seña de identidad de estos "quemados", claramente influenciados por autores como Salinger, Barthelme o Carver.

Los diecinueve relatos incluidos en la antología tienen sus virtudes, ninguno tiene desperdicio. Unos son algo irregulares, otros son buenos, y unos pocos son excepcionales. La mayoría de estos cuentos están caracterizados por dos obsesiones: la muerte y la publicidad. Narran las vicisitudes del americano medio enfrentado a una sociedad de consumo, sumida en el desencanto y temerosa de la muerte y la enfermedad.

Mis relatos favoritos son '¡Sé hablar!', de George Saunders, crítica feroz en plan humorístico de la publicidad; 'Habría que darle un nombre', de Matthew Klam, caústico y desesperado relato de amor; 'Multipropiedad', de Jeffrey Eugenides, retrato irónico de una familia venida a menos; 'Encarnación de una generación quemada', de David Foster Wallace, escalofriante y genial relato de apenas tres páginas que te deja temblando, de estructura perfecta; 'Test de comprensión', de Myla Goldberg, que en plan experimental juega con los límites de la literatura; 'El protagonista', de Aimee Bender, relato claramente alegórico. Sólo por estos cuentos, ya merece la pena leer esta novela, donde tal vez se eche de menos a algún autor, pero que incluye algunos de los mejores escritores de nuestro tiempo.

Estos son los diecinueve relatos incluidos, más el epílogo de Zadie Smith:

- ¡Sé hablar!, George Saunders
- Habría que darle nombre, Matthew Klam
- Cisternas, Judy Budnitz
- Test de comprensión, Myla Goldberg
- Multipropiedad, Jeffrey Eugenides
- Encarnación de una generación quemada, David Foster Wallace
- Faith o Consejos a una joven que quiere tener éxito, Amanda Davis
- Cartas de Steven, un perro, a magnates de la industria, Dave Eggers
- Odontofilia, Julia Slavin
- Una verdadera muñeca, A.M. Homes
- Sueño, Shelley Jackson
- El primer hombre, Stacey Richter
- El protagonista, Aimee Bender
- Los centros comerciales invisibles, Ken Kalfus
- La rana de las nieves, Arthur Bradford
- Videoapartamento, Jonathan Lethem
- El brazo malo, Sam Lipsyte
- Circulación, Rick Moody

- Manual para puntuar las enfermedades del corazón, Jonathan Safran Foer

Kristoffer says

Great collection of stories by contemporary American writers, some better than others. Among the former: David Foster Wallace and Jonathan Safran Foer.

Rowena says

A good collection of short stories. Unfortunately, by the time I read this book, the theme (sadness at the soullessness of corporate America) was already dated. My favorites were the stories of Saunders (bitter and sad), Wallace (raw, a sense of panic jumping out at you), Slavin (kafkaesque, albeit a bit too sentimental), Homes (appallingly funny), and Foer (clever, funny and sad).

Kayla says

great collection. no complaints

Citra Marina says

awesome compilation

Kurt says

"A Real Doll" by A.M. Homes has to be the best story about a boy and his sister's Barbie that I've ever read. Hilarious!

Urszula says

Zbiór jak to zbiór - ma lepsze i gorsze fragmenty. Siegnęam po niego ze względu na Saundersa, i w zasadzie na nim się kończy.

Luis Alberto Bravo says

Muy buena selección. Mis cuentos favoritos:

- Test de comprensión (Myla Goldberg)
- Faith o Consejos a una joven que quiere tener éxito (Amanda Davis)
- Una verdadera muñeca (A.M. Homes)
- El primer hombre (Stacey Richter)
- Manual para puntuar las enfermedades del corazón (Jonathan Safran Foer)
- Los centros comerciales invisibles (Ken Kalfus)
- La rana de las nieves (Arthur Bradford).

* Extrañé a Miranda July

Catherine says

First I'll say that there were some short stories in this that I really liked and a couple of new authors I'll keep an eye out for - really enjoyed "Faith" and "Flush" but ...

Zadie Smith wrote in her intro that the thread connecting these stories was one of sadness. I guess ... but it was not the sadness that you would find and appreciate in a story by Ford or Carver -- much of it just felt selfish and self-absorbing. Some of these stories were just nonsensical crap wishing it was literature. Some of these stories I simply could not finish.

Final words -- children, lock up your Barbies!

T-bone says

There are some fine stories in this collection. The one about Stephen, the letter writing dog, was great. Also enjoyed the one about the guy whose wife starts growing teeth all over her body. Best of all was the one about the twelve year old boy who has an affair with his sister's Barbie doll. Brilliant.

Anna says

This is the state of modern short fiction. This is by far the best collection of short stories I have read. Good picks, Zadie.

Natalya says

There are some great, actually fantastic stories in this collection, but after reading the whole book I am stuck with the feeling that what young, contemporary literature in America is today is finding some kind of quirk you can add to the universe we sort of know, a twist to make it surreal, and it felt almost formulaic by the end of it. That being said there were a few stories that really stuck with me from this collection and I truly recommend giving it a read.

Alex says

I read this years ago and felt the urge to borrow it again when I last swung by the library. Eying the author list and re-reading the stories, it felt like coming across the forgotten spare room in your grandparents' house and seeing faint memories hidden in the dust. A little hard to objectively gauge my feelings on the stories due to the nostalgia in other words. I will say that the story of the toothed woman in *Dentaphilia* by Julia Slavin has haunted me all these years. I also recognised *The Snow Frog* by Arthur Bradford from the title and was pleased to confirm my suspicion that it was indeed enjoyable. And.. actually, there are very few I didn't enjoy re-reading. I think it may be a sense of what Zadie Smith describes in the introduction as "abstract whimsy" combined with "... genuinely [wanting] to tell you a story..." which appeals to me. No pompous navel-gazing, just storytelling, occasionally fantastical, but generally sincere and sweet.

MJ Nicholls says

This pocket-sized *cri de coeur* from America's "burned children" serves as both a manifesto for the New Wave of post-millennial Yank talent, and provides a nice entry point for the curious to read these new, exciting authors.

Some of these writers have been kicking around for a while now, of course. The theme of this collection – sadness at the soullessness of corporate America – has, unfortunately, dated. America has shifted radically since 2003.

Anywho... there are some fabulous stories here. The standouts for me were those by George Saunders, David Foster Wallace, Julia Slavin, A.M. Homes, Stacey Richter, Arthur Bradford and Jonathan Safran Foer.

Coming in a close second were those by Matthew Klam, Judy Budnitz, Amanda Davis, Dave Eggers, Aimee Bender, Ken Kalfus, Jonathan Lethem, Sam Lipsyte and Rick Moody.

The duds come courtesy of Jeffrey Eugenides (what the hell is he doing in here?) and Shelley Jackson (her flappy pretentious arse is wildly misplaced in this collection).

A very strong selection for bargain-bucket hunters everywhere.

Ludmilla says

içinde çok iyi öyküler var. isimlerden birkaç?na a?inaysan?z özellikle tavsiye ederim.
