



A Knowing Look and Other Stories

Rebecca Emin

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From the heat of the African plain to the chilled winter air in rural England, this book will take you on a journey via a collection of emotive short stories.

Birth, death, and some of the challenges that arise in between are covered in this selection of fiction for adult readers.

A Knowing Look and Other Stories Details

Date : Published November 22nd 2011 by Rebecca Emin

ISBN :

Author : Rebecca Emin

Format : Kindle Edition 49 pages

Genre : Short Stories



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From Reader Review A Knowing Look and Other Stories for online ebook

Jessica says

I enjoyed this collection of short stories. Some of them had information left out, leaving me wanting to know what had happened to make the story end that way. I suppose this is supposed to be a good thing since it means even in such a short story the author had managed to capture my attention and made me care enough for a character that I wanted to know more about them. But not so good for sating my curiosity. I liked how many of the stories had sudden twists in them, kind of like unexpected things happening in real life, yet despite that the stories didn't feel incoherent.

Sarah says

I received this book through a goodread's giveaway and if I'm honest if I hadn't I probably wouldn't have even looked at this book let alone read it because it's not my usual time of book, but I'm glad I've been able to read it as it was very interesting and different.

the short stories in this book are only around 3 or 4 pages each sometimes less, and they all have similar themes which helps link them together. the main themes were death or loss, love, and often offering a different view of life.

a few of my favorites were A knowing look, which is the first story in the book which I found mesmerising and lovely, "Listen" is a one page story which appears to be told from nature's point of view; questioning humans as to why we're destroying the world, I liked this story and could relate to easily. "on the corner of clerk street" was one of the stories that contained a lovely and unexpected twist at the end, this one was breath taking and creative. aswell as others inbetween i also liked the final one page story called "you light up the sky" which was an amazing way to finish the book.

my only dislike was the front cover. it does suit the stories and is effective but it looks abit childish which is one of the reasons I normally wouldn't have picked it up (even though i believe you shouldn't judge a book by its cover :/).

overall it was a lovely little book that contains stories that are easy to relate to, characters you can content with even for the short amounts of time. nicely written. xx

Brenda says

Goodreads win.

This collection of short stories covers partings mainly, but all done with sensitivity and some joy in the mix. I had to read some of them more than once as I found that there was an unexpected twist at the end that I had not anticipated, so needed to re-cap in search of clues that I may have missed. A very readable little book that is packed with some very thought provoking stories. Rebecca is to be congratulated and I look forward to reading more by her in the future.

Paul Servini says

Rebecca is one of the best flash fiction writers I know. Her work appears on other books and I also have the privilege of having one of my stories in a collection in which she also figures. This book disappoints in just one thing: it's over so quickly. But Rebecca also just published her second novel so there's more to be read.

Marit Meredith says

Rebecca's second book, her collection of short stories (four of them previously published elsewhere), entitled *A Knowing Look and Other Stories*, is a treat to read. Rebecca presents us with a varied collection, from the poignant first story *A Knowing Look* - a beautiful, but heart wrenching story set in Africa (it made me shed a few tears) - to a little sci-fi in *A Step Too Far*, painting a scary future for the mothers among us, then touching on love and loss, separation and a new beginning in *As Fast as You Can*. Not giving too much away, further stories touch on a little lightly spiced revenge(that'll teach them!), a birds' eye view of the Human, and his artificial dwellings encroaching on 'their' natural habitat, as well as stories touching on the human condition in all its hues, including my favourite *On the Corner of Clerk Street*. That one sent goosebumps up my spine as it came to a very clever, unexpected conclusion. It's clever work, this! An excellent collection of short stories and flash fiction, varied in content and eloquently written – and leaving the reader wanting more.

David says

This is a lovely collection of short stories. I Thought I would sit and read a couple of them then put it down and come back later, but before I knew it I had reached the end.

Some stories finished in an unexpected way which made them an enjoyment to read rather than having a predictable ending to each story which would not push you on to read more.

Being only 49 pages long means it can be enjoyed at anytime, even better during a busy period where you don't have time to read a novel. I recommend this book to anyone who is a fan of short stories or those who wish to explore a new genre.

Received the book for free through Goodreads Giveaways/First Reads.

Bookish Indulgences with b00k r3vi3ws says

When I first started to read, I used to avoid reading short stories because I used to feel that the ending came a bit too soon. It is only in the recent times that I have started to appreciate how difficult it must be for an author to tell a story effectively within the limitations.

Ms.Emin has not only packed this book with a wide range of stories, but has successfully managed to make each story special. When I say a wide range, I mean a wide range in every aspect – the settings take you from

Africa to England in a jiffy and the emotions will take you from the highest high to really low, yet her writing style remained balanced throughout. She had me from the very first story, 'A Knowing Look' that touched my heart. 'Class of 1990' was nothing like anything I have read before. 'On the Corner of Clerk Street' with its amazing twist had me reading the story twice in a row before moving on. 'Listen' and the last piece 'You light up the sky' were brief yet thought provoking.

Also, the funny thing about my short stories is that every time I read them over, I find something new. It may be just a sentence that appeals to me differently or sometimes a story creates a totally different impression. So, I will surely be picking this book up for a second time after a gap. In the meantime you guys can pick this up without hesitation. The book is some 50-60 pages and so a quick read (unless you end up reading a story more than once like me).

D.J. says

This collection of short stories was an enjoyable read from start to finish. There is a wide variety of stories and each one made an impact on me though My Island Tale, The Gift, and Grace were my particular favourites from this collection. I heartily recommend A Knowing Look to those of you who enjoy short stories, want something literary to savour during your lunch break or need succinct reads for your daily commute.

Linda Parkinson-Hardman says

This is a small collection of short stories and flash fiction which I think is probably aimed at the young adult rather than an adult because of the style of writing she employs. I enjoyed the sense of anticipation from each story knowing that there was a good twist at the end of each and I also liked the way she was brave enough to deal with subjects I'm not so sure I'd be comfortable with. She definitely shows promise as an adult author.

I haven't read any other works from Rebecca Emin and I guess it's because at the moment her market isn't me so she hasn't crossed my path.

Elle Kay says

An excellent and insightful collection of short stories that the reader can't help but connect with and recognize. The focus is on real lives and real issues and I enjoyed every story contained within. This would be an excellent book to set as a high school text as it really is a collection that everyone should read.

Ashley says

This book is both heart-felt and sentimental. The short stories quickly engrossed me into them; however, as they frequently had sad endings, reading multiple stories in a row could be 'too much.' That doesn't detract

from the fact that it's a lovely read.

Natalie Bowers says

I received this book as part of a Goodreads giveaway.

I liked this collection of short stories and flash-fictions. The length of each story perfectly suited my short concentration span, and they packed a lot in - characters, conflicts, plots and settings were all as fully realised as they needed to be. Many of the tales seemed to deal with loss and/or separation, and many had a little twist in the tail which either had me rereading in an attempt to spot the signposts, or had me reassessing my views and thought processes - a sign of good fiction! All of them elicited a reaction from me. I dithered about whether to give the book three or four stars, but settled on three because although I enjoyed it and found something to appreciate in every story, the overall collection didn't blow me away. I think it was because the arrangement of the stories didn't quite work - there are two ghost stories back to back, for example, and as so many stories had twists, I couldn't just settle into a tale and enjoy it without my mind trying to spot the surprise before it happened. Having said that, I'd definitely recommend this book to anyone who enjoys or who is interested in flash-fiction. It's a good read!

Shirley Golden says

These stories deal with a wide variety of subjects from an unusual and poignant appeal to the human race to an unexpected resolution to a tour of duty. I'm not a huge fan of twist endings, and the thing that really impressed me about many of the stories was how Rebecca managed to bring in unforeseen elements without feeling contrived. Original and touching, this is a collection I'd recommend.

Sadie Forsythe says

This was a first read win and I'm glad to have won it. I've never ventured into flash fiction before and almost certainly wouldn't have picked this up on my own. It's such a small book, not even 50 pages. I would have looked at it as barely an hours entertainment, moved on and missed out. These stories are small emotional packets of prose. Some I liked more than others, but they were all good in their own way. The title story, *A Knowing Look* and *On the Corner of Clerk Street* were my favorites, though *Perfect Harmony* was a close contender. I liked the alternative versions of adultery. If you need a quick read I suggest picking this one up.

Susan Rose says

This was my first time reading flash fiction and it was brilliant, the stories although short felt complete, (not that they didn't stay with you and leave you with questions about the characters).

The topics covered are incredibly varied, and at some are very moving, I also enjoyed a few of the tales with

surprise endings.

If you are new to flash fiction or an existing fan definitely give this collection a read.

Also I received my copy as part of the giveaways and the author had signed it and included a few bookmarks, which was lovely.
