



Downhome: An Anthology of Southern Women Writers

Susie Mee (Editor/Contributor) , Ellen Glasgow (Contributor) , Elizabeth Spencer (Contributor) , Bobbie Ann Mason (Contributor) , Flannery O'Connor (Contributor) , Alice Walker (Contributor) , Lee Smith (Contributor) , Dorothy Allison (Contributor) , more... Mary Ward Brown (Contributor) , Katherine Anne Porter (Contributor) , Elizabeth Seydel Morgan (Contributor) , Elizabeth Cox (Contributor) , Tina McElroy Ansa (Contributor) , Mary Noailles Murfree (Contributor) , Doris Betts (Contributor) , Ellen Gilchrist (Contributor) , Eudora Welty (Contributor) , Mary Hood (Contributor) , Gayl Jones (Contributor) , Margaret Gibson (Contributor) , Zora Neale Hurston (writer) ...less

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A collection of diverse voices and experiences, all springing from a shared legacy: memories of the american South, of being “downhome.” Mee introduces each group of stories and then lets the authors reveal aspects of the South from their own female point of view. Introduction by the Author.

Contents:

Isis by Zora Neale Hurston
Economics by Elizabeth Seydel Morgan
Sarah by Tina McElroy Ansa
Star in the valley by Mary Noailles Murfree
Ugliest pilgrim by Doris Betts
Music by Ellen Gilchrist
Wide net by Eudora Welty
After Moore by Mary Hood
White rat by Gayl Jones
Dare's gift by Ellen Glasgow
First dark by Elizabeth Spencer
Shiloh by Bobbie Ann Mason
Good country people by Flannery O'Connor
Everyday use by Alice Walker
Yellow ribbons by Susie Mee
Tongues of fire by Lee Smith
Gospel song by Dorothy Allison
New life by Mary Ward Brown
Grave by Katherine Anne Porter
And with a vengeance by Margaret Gibson
Third of July by Elizabeth Cox

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From Reader Review Downhome: An Anthology of Southern Women Writers for online ebook

Fishfam says

You could tell by the dog-eared pages and curling cover that I read this at least once a year. Some of the short stories are better than others, and I still turn to those when I read this book. A great collection of Southern fiction by women. In my opinion the best stories are:

...

After Moore, by Mary Hood

...

Dare's Gift, by Ellen Glasgow

...

First Dark, by Elizabeth Spencer

...

Everyday Use, by Alice Walker

...

Tongues of Fire, by Lee Smith

...

Amber says

Like all anthologies, pretty hit or miss. I'm glad this exists in the world, though.

Connie Vincent says

Wonderful collection of short stories exploring the lives of Southern women.

Cheryl says

I have read this back in college and now I am re-reading and loving the re-discovery. I know most acclaim is given to Flannery O'Connor for A Good Man... but I am a great fan of Good Country People which is in this anthology. And perhaps one of my favorite short stories is Everyday Use by Alice Walker.

This book can be found at half.com for good garage sale prices.

Sonya says

Loved it.

Gmjohson says

I'd give it 3.5 stars.

I read half of these short stories and had to return it to the library.

All written by different southern women writers.

I enjoyed the writing styles.

I don't think I'll renew it because I'm not that into reading short stories.

Erin Rafferty says

An outstanding collection from some of the great women of the south. I love the way the book is organized-- it allows for a close examination of some of the connections among the stories and the concerns of these writers.

Lydia says

have read over and over

Laine says

From this anthology, I read "The Ugliest Pilgrim" by Doris Betts. I knew nothing about this story, except that the musical, "Violet" (which I love) was based off of it. I started this story with very high expectations, and I was not disappointed.

This story follows the journey of Violet Karl from Spruce Pines, North Carolina to Tulsa, Oklahoma in order to find someone who can heal her. When Violet was thirteen, she was helping her father cop wood, when the blade of the axe came off the handle and hit her in the face. She is portrayed with a large scar on her face that she feels very self conscious about. On the bus, she meets several people and realizes that everyone has their own journey. Violet meets an African-American soldier, Flick. Flick and Violet befriend each other, and Violet begins to realize that her scar does not define who she is; her personality does. Violet also meets and becomes friends with Monty. Throughout Violet's journey, her views toward her outward appearance begin to change and she starts to realize that there's more to you than your appearance.

This book truly emphasizes the importance of inner beauty and believing in yourself. It also proves that, no matter how alone you feel, there is always someone there for you, or in the same situation, and everyone is on a journey in some way.

I really, really, recommend this book to anyone who wants an uplifting, heartfelt, quick-read.

Meghan Pinson says

I read this book slowly, a bit and a story at a time over the course of the last year. Out of 21 stories, 7 were excellent, and that's good enough for me. I don't mind skipping over the slower ones, and I don't feel guilty for it, either. Some of my favorites I'd read before, but not for a long time: Zora Neale Hurston's "Isis," Alice Walker's "Everyday Use." I'll never get over Flannery O'Connor's "Good Country People," which doesn't have a single unnecessary word, and Dorothy Allison's "Gospel Song" will ruin me every time. There's a passage in there that explains two out of the three times I was born again. But Doris Betts' "The Ugliest Pilgrim" was a discovery and a delight, and I'll go looking for more by her. It reminded me of Flannery O'Connor's dark earnest humor. Elizabeth Seydel Morgan's "Economics" was very good. And ending the anthology with Elizabeth Cox's "The Third of July" was the stroke that made me sob into my pillow and fall asleep with the book in my arms. Highly recommended.

Amy says

My favorite collection of stories of all time!

Ginny Thurston says

An excellent collection of Southern women voices....organized by theme with three authors in each section. My favorites were "The Star in the Valley" by Mary Noailles Murfree, the only Tennessean, "The Ugliest Pilgrim" by Doris Betts from North Carolina, "After Moore" by Mary Hood from Georgia, "Shiloh" by Bobbie Ann Mason from Kentucky. My very favorite was Lee Smith's "Tongues of Fire." I had read it previously, but I enjoyed it a second time...I just love the narrator's voice. It made me laugh; it made me cry. I had taught "Good Country People" and "Everyday Use" in high school, and they were interesting and

wonderfully written, as always.

Jill says

The Ugliest Pilgrim, The Wide Net and Economics were my favorites.

Sylvie says

This anthology is absolutely wonderful. I first read it when my friend, Nicole, loaned me her copy, and I loved it. At that time, I had not read very many southern writers—men or women—and this book introduced me to a group of very talented women southern writers. Thanks, Nicole!

amelia says

<3 i learned that i love eudora welty
