



Khushwant Singh Selects Best Indian Short Stories.

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Khushwant Singh, the country's foremost literary figure, serves up another volume of the finest fiction from across India. 'A good read . . . engaging . . . The names live up to their reputation.' - India Today 'Tremendous richness of characters on display.' - Deccan Herald 'Offers much . . . to the discriminating reader.' - Deccan Chronicle 'An eminently readable book . . . The range of geographical areas and social backgrounds that this selection represents are truly vast.' - The Tribune

Khushwant Singh Selects Best Indian Short Stories. Details

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From Reader Review Khushwant Singh Selects Best Indian Short Stories. for online ebook

Sarbjit says

An interesting collection of stories leading one to the ultimate truth:

Your dustbin is spying on you and its not because your mad or because you drink too much Jim Bean.

Leena Arya says

Good

Nilofar N says

amrita pritam's 'the birth of a poem' left me inspired to write something creative.

Ashima Jain says

Ever since I've picked up reading again, I find myself drawn to short stories for the snack-sized serving they offer in moments when you're not quite willing to commit to a seven course meal.

This book caught my attention at a book sale and I was taken by the cover and title. Best Indian Short Stories as selected by Khushwant Singh.

For a little over nine years, Khushwant Singh edited The Illustrated Weekly of India at which time it retained the top position in the country for the quality of short stories and poems published in it. It was a matter of prestige for young authors to have their work published in this weekly news-magazine.

From his time there, he put together a delectable selection of short stories that have been published by Harper Collins India in two volumes. These stories represent literature from different parts of the subcontinent and are written by authors who have made names for themselves in English literary circles as well as those known for their writing in regional languages.

With a strong central theme, and only a few characters, each of these stories carry the magic of an era long gone. They traverse a world of emotions and leave you stunned at the end with the simplicity of the plot and the hard-hitting punch to the gut.

Having read these, I'd say it is difficult to find such finesse in the craft of writing short stories today.

Neha says

Khushwant Singh does a fine editorial job with selecting of some of the best short stories and the writers. On one side there are all time favourites like Ismat Chughtai, Mulk Raj Anand, Ruskin Bond, Amrita Pritam and Rajinder Singh Bedi. And on the other there are some fine discoveries (they were there but not known to me) like Qurratulain Haider, Krishan Chander, Suresh Chopra, Shashi Deshpande, Wendy Fernandes, Balwant Gargi and Abdul Jabbar. I liked particularly the stories by Qurratulain Haider, they were as vintage and classic as their times. I loved the innocent narration by a child in 'Memories of an Indian childhood' and 'My Aunt Gracie' and hope and simplicity in 'A candle for St Jude' and 'Honour'. He is definitely going to my list of favourite short story writers. Other stories which made a mark were 'Hijra' by Abdul Jabbar – a poignant and true depiction of God's creation.. 'It was Dark' by Shashi Deshpande a truthful and stark naked depiction... 'Mataji and the Hippies' is funny and interesting... and 'The Brinjal cut out' by Krishan Chander is witty take on our society. Read it and you will not regret it...

Shivang Sharma says

As diverse as it gets. Leave it when something turns up and go back to it when you wanna have a short snack of words without feeling interrupted.

Jafar says

I'd have given this one five stars but some of the stories were just okay on the scale. The better ones weren't many and I wished to read more of them, or wished they would have been a little longer.

Pick this one up and enjoy. Recommended.

Deepak Rao says

I wouldn't call it a really great collection but some of the stories are really worth reading.

Fury Jain says

A pleasurable companion during my recent examinations. True to his word, Khushwant Singh's anthology is a kind of all-India curry cooked with spices gathered from different parts of the subcontinent. Apart from his own contributions, I especially loved the works of M. Karunanidhi and RK Laxman.

Vivek says

I liked the book for having introduced me to new set of Indian authors from across vernacular media. Whilst

some stories didn't register, a few added interesting perspectives that mainstream Indian English authors haven't touched upon. Khushwant Singh's lust is never too far behind when you wonder why some of the stories got picked. Since it is a collection of short stories across varied themes, you are bound to find some to your interest.

Jabar says

sdd

Sundarraj Kaushik says

An eclectic collection of short stories from various parts of India. Some of them very good and some not so great.

The ones that appealed to me were as follows:

In "Confessions of a Dustbin" by Karunanidhi the author describes the life from the perspective of a dustbin into which people keep discarding unwanted stuff and it being cleared by the municipality truck. The author shows his atheism and his scoff for religion by speaking about the sexual escapades that the dustbin learns about the Indian Gods from an old book about puranas that somebody has thrown into its belly.

"The Accident" by R. K. Laxman. In this story the author illustrates how a person running away from crime almost crashes into a tree because the papers that he had carelessly thrown in the back seat are stirred up by the air circulating through the car and covers his face preventing him from seeing where he is headed. He uses this trick later to get rid of the goon who has come after him for the spoils.

In "The Palace Orders" by Manohar Malgaonkar speaks about how two people exploit the similarity of a country bumpkin being similar to that of a royalty with a great influence in the country. They use the person to extort money from various people. In the end the country bumpkin tries to double cross them and tries to run away with the extorted money to satisfy his grandfather's dream of flying from his hometown to Delhi by airplane.

In "A Slice of the Melon" by Manohar Malgaonkar describes how unscrupulous persons skim the money that pours into the political party's coffers during the election time. A small time help who sees this happen sets up a front to try and skim some of this money and he almost succeeds.

"Temple Mouse" by Manohar Malgaonkar speaks about how hollow the people are. He describes how a person close to a "spiritual" guru milks his position to make money for himself while another person who is the right hand man of a famous actor does the same.

Both the stories of Sadat Hasan Manto, selected by Khushwant Singh have the element of sexuality in them and this is not surprising given the proclivity of Khushwant Singh for writing stories with at least a tinge sex in them. Did not enjoy either of them, not because of the sex content, but because of the lack of depth.

The author has three stories of his own all obviously reflecting his beliefs and topics close to his heart, that of

Agnosticism, bottom pinching and Kama Sutra. The Bottom Pincher and The Agnostic are an OK read, the third is not at all good.

All in all OK read.

Rasika Kaware says

The art of short story writing is indeed an eloquent and yet an enigmatic one, is what is unfolded through this book. The stories find their way to your heart and stay with you for quite some time. The prequel and sequel interpretation of these stories can be distinct, by each person, is what makes it even more interesting. An absolute heart warming experience.

Book'd says

Khushwant Singh is a master of vocabulary and this choicest collection of stories shows his taste for words and prose.

This book is a collection of short stories by Indian writers carefully chosen by Khushwant Singh. It includes two stories by Khushwant Singh also.

Stories are quite entertaining and thought provoking. Some stories you would find pointless in beginning and sums up everything in the end nicely. Some stories end abruptly and leave you thinking.

Overall an enjoyable book and recommended for those who want to have a quick and light read.

Nidhi says

Indian Short Stories selected by Kushwant Singh [Vol 1], a collection of stories in the Indian backdrop from some famous and some not so famous authors [surprisingly some famous names like Premchand didn't make it to the list].. the stories are short and as most of them are translated either from Hindi or Urdu, one can sense the loss in translation effect - the phrases that can be captured in one language cannot always make it to a different language without losing their beauty. I found most of the stories that I have read so far a bit abrupt without a clear message, also the earlier Indian authors had a marked inclination towards sad endings...probably they mirrored the Indian society problems of religion and poverty which we have been shielded from by our parents very effectively so find difficult to relate to.

I give it ** stars, pick it up for a journey or some situation where you don't have the luxury to give undivided attention to the book. You can leave it in the middle and come back [which won't be difficult as it's definitely not a page turner] and continue again without the "interrupted" feel.

