



The Penguin Book of Modern British Short Stories

By Various

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This anthology is in many ways a 'best of the best', containing gems from thirty-four of Britain's outstanding contemporary writers. It is a book to dip into, to read from cover to cover, to lend to friends and read again. It includes stories of love and crime, stories touched with comedy and the supernatural, stories set in London, Los Angeles, Bucharest and Tokyo. Above all, as you will discover, it satisfies Samuel Butler's anarchic pleasure principle: 'I should like to like Schumann's music better than I do; I daresay I could make myself like it better if I tried; but I do not like having to try to make myself like things; I like things that make me like them at once and no trying at all...'

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The Penguin Book of Modern British Short Stories By Various Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #970523 in Books
- Brand: Penguin
- Published on: 1989-07-05
- Released on: 1989-07-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.77" h x 1.03" w x 5.12" l, .71 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 448 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

These 34 stories have all the hallmarks of post-1945 British culture: an amused attitude toward Americans and Australians, a comic fascination with sex, a baffling affection for a cold evening meal called "tea." In most cases, though, as the narrator of Adam Mars-Jones's "Structural Anthropology" says, "just below the surface of story . . . lies the tangled richness of myth." Stylistically, the works vary from Samuel Beckett's succinct avant-gardism to Doris Lessing's extended revisiting of naturalism à la Flaubert. The entire volume is recommended, especially Ian McEwan's "Psychopolis," which makes it clear why many consider him Great Britain's leading writer. David Kirby, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee
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About the Author

Malcolm Bradbury is a novelist, critic, television dramatist and Emeritus Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia. He is author of the novels *Eating People is Wrong* (1959); *Stepping Westward* (1965); *The History Man* (1975); which won the Royal Society of Literature Heinemann Prize and was adapted as a famous television series; *Rates of Exchange* (1983) which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize; *Cuts: A Very Short Novel* (1987), also televised; and *Doctor Criminal* (1992). His critical works include *The Modern American Novel* (1984; revised edition, 1992); *No, Not Bloomsbury* (essays, 1987); *The Modern world: Ten Great Writers* (1988); *From Puritanism to Post-modernism: A History of American Literature* (with Richard Ruland, 1991) He is the author of a collection of seven stories and nine parodies, entitled *Who Do You Think You Are?* (1976), and of several works of humour and satire, including *Why Come to Slaka?* (1986), *Unsent Letters* (1988; revised edition, 1995) and *Mensonge* (1987). Many of his books are published by Penguin. In addition, he has written many television plays and the television 'novel' *The Gravy Train* and *The Gravy Train Goes East*. He has adapted several television series, including Tom Sharpe's *Porterhouse Blue*, Kingsley Amis's *The Green Man* and Stella Gibbon's *Cold Comfort Farm*, now a feature film.

Malcolm Bradbury lives in Norwich, travels good deal, and in 1991 he was awarded the CBE.

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