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New American Stories (Vintage Contemporaries)



Synopsis

In *New American Stories*, the beautiful, the strange, the melancholy, and the sublime all come together to show the vast range of the American short story. In this remarkable anthology, Ben Marcus has corralled a vital and artistically singular crowd of contemporary fiction writers. Collected here are practitioners of deep realism, mind-blowing experimentalism, and every hybrid in between. Luminaries and cult authors stand side by side with the most compelling new literary voices. Nothing less than the American short story renaissance distilled down to its most relevant, daring, and unforgettable works, *New American Stories* puts on wide display the true art of an American idiom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A superb collection of bold and inventive stories just enough outside the mainstream to make them unforgettable. Ben Marcus has a great eye and a great brain. Most likely a wonderful heart as well. Thank you Ben!

I am really impressed by this collection of stories. If you're reading this review, you should buy this book.

I really enjoyed this collection. Very eclectic. From gold diggers in 1849 to a couple stories from the future. And everything in between. Since reading these short stories, I have purchased a few novels

from some of these authors. Highly recommended.

Hand picked stories. So original Read them all!!!!

Short stories....haven't read them all but we're enjoying the selections.

Good collection, especially if you're an outsider wondering about the American short story, although if your idea of 'short' is something like a Raymond Carver story or an Alice Munro you'll find that most of these new writers are proto-novelists who write episodic narratives across Time rather than find an axiomatic situation that contains -- as the photographer Robert Frank called it -- "the decisive moment". Thirty something stories here, nothing too radical. Professional, safe... mostly, and the ones that aren't safe are the best. DeLillo's 'Hammer & Sickle' is dynamite, a victim's guide to the financial collapse of 2008. Beautifully written with some powerful dialogue, some of it TV montage, the Devil of our waking somnambulism. Returning vets? Yes, there's a good one here: 'Home' by George Saunders. In the words of the protagonist, it's "a New Age fist up the ass". Most of the writers you won't know, even though they've all won prizes, teach creative writing or make a living somehow. Lots of women, lots of 'exotics' from other places, and one or two established authors like DeLillo and Coover for window dressing. No genre writing like SF (as usual none of the literati know anything about science, the engine of contemporary culture) or Mystery. This is serious stuff (which is not to say there's no humour), is what we used to call 'mainstream'; in that sense it's a genre, and maybe worth 5 stars as these guys can write. (my more extensive review is at Culturecourt)

Short story collection. Some very unusual stories; all well written, have not yet finished book.

Really good people , great writers, enough new names to be worth the price alone. Love stories and these are some great ones..

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