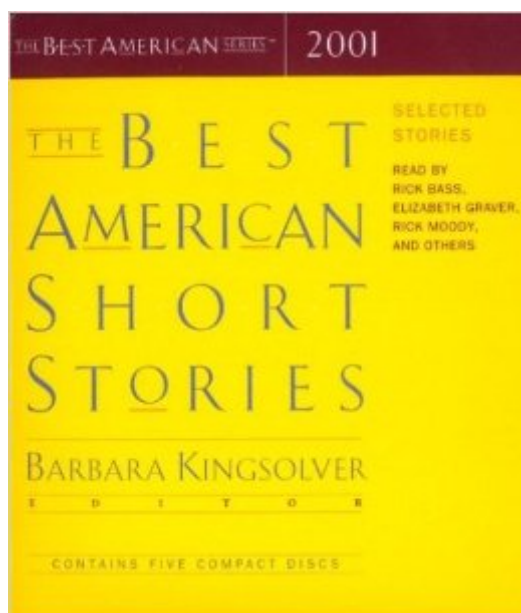


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The Best American Short Stories 2001



Synopsis

This year's Best American Short Stories is edited by the critically acclaimed and best-selling author Barbara Kingsolver, whose latest book is *Prodigal Summer*. Kingsolver's selections for *The Best American Short Stories 2001* showcase a wide variety of new voices and masters, such as Alice Munro, Rick Moody, Dorothy West, and John Updike. "Reading these stories was both a distraction from and an anchor to the complexities of my life; my pleasure, my companionship, my salvation. I hope they will be yours." • Barbara Kingsolver

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So, in theory, you could call me a psycho. I actually run out and purchase the Best American Series for any given year the very day it comes out and I'm not ashamed. But, you know, I've noticed that of the reviews I've read so far from any year, half of the people who read the series are completely satisfied with it (or just lying) and the other half want to burn every single copy cover to cover. Well, this is what I think: this year wasn't half bad. In past years, I've put the book down half way through, sometimes skimmed through. But with the 2001 edition, I made a conscious effort to get through the entire thing, and I didn't do too terribly. For one thing, Barbara Kingsolver's introduction is well worth the read. I swear that in a few decades, the intro to every edition will become some sort of critical piece of literary criticism. It's interesting to hear what some so-called "in" authors have to say about the state of short fiction. But, more importantly, it gives you insight into who exactly picked what. Theoretically, this isn't necessarily the Best American Short Stories, but more like The Best

American Short Stories According To Such-and-Such. Regardless, there are quite a few that deserve their slots. Among my favorites is "Brothers and Sisters Around the World", by Andrea Lee, a story set in Madagascar which explores the unique bonds between women of different cultures, and the relationship between Africans and African-American. Also up on my list is "What I Saw from Where I Stood" by Marisa Silver. I had read this story in the publication in which it had originally appeared and had put it down knowing it would be picked for the series.

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