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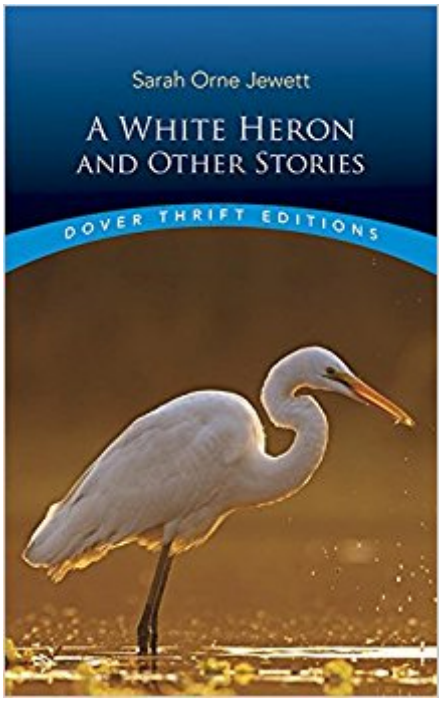
A White Heron And Other Stories (Dover Thrift Editions)



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Synopsis

Writing in wonderfully descriptive and fluent prose, Sarah Orne Jewett, best-known for The Country of the Pointed Firs, was early encouraged by her father to write not about things, but to "write the things themselves just as they are." That she did so is clearly evident in this collection of sensitively written stories, regional sketches that celebrate the past, full of clearly delineated characters and carefully detailed natural and domestic settings.Her luminous descriptions of the landscape are apparent in the title story, commonly regarded as her finest single tale. Other stories focus on the rural lives of elderly women and their attempts to live with dignity and security. In "The Town Poor," the characters are resilient in their poverty and compassionate towards those in need. Themes of female friendship in "The Dulham Ladies" and "Miss Tempy's Watchers" are characteristic. This volume also includes "The Foreigner," "Miss Peck's Promotion," "The Passing of Sister Barsett," "Miss Esther's Guest," "The Guests of Mrs. Timms," and "The Courting of Sister Wisby."Widely regarded as the most distinguished American regionalist writer of the 19th century, Sarah Orne Jewett has been rediscovered and acknowledged as an American master. This outstanding collection of her short fiction will delight students of literature and women's studies as well as general readers.

Book Information

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Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Jewett was a 19th-century American novelist and short-story writer. Generally set in the small town of Maine, her work is characterized by simplicity of style. Love of nature is also evident form her works. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Just as described!

great book

Enjoyed it

Yes, I do see that there's a warning saying that this was "published" from a public domain copy found in a library, but it's kind of ridiculous to use a copy where so many of the pages are scribbled on or underlined, where the author's name on the title page is defaced, and some anonymous library reader scrawled "BALONEY!" at the end of the first story. Very disappointed in this purchase.

Jewett's short vignettes were dismissed in her lifetime as "mere sketches" of regional life. If you want fast-moving action based plots, these aren't your thing. But the short, loosely interconnected pieces in this collection are wonderful images of a time, place and lifestyle. The domestic world of 19th century women, as well as New England, are painted with a light brush. People interested in early environmentalism/naturalism will find "A White Heron" a depiction of a growing awareness of humanity/nature's interconnectedness.You may have to read this for a high school or college English course, and if so, read it with the expectation of snapshots of American life that reveal a lot about the author's life, too.

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