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A Pair Of Silk Stockings: Best Of Women's Short Stories Volume 2 (A CSA Word Classic)



Synopsis

This eclectic collection celebrates long-neglected short fiction by great women writers best known for their novels. Highlights include Jane Austen's *The Watsons*, thought by many to be a study for her classic novel *Emma*; Elizabeth Gaskell's *The Half-Brothers*, a heartbreaking account of two brothers who go missing in the Cumbrian mountains; and *The Red Room*, a little-known gothic horror story from L. M. Montgomery, the creator of the beloved *Anne of Green Gables* series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is a truth universally acknowledged that an anthology of women writers must be in want of Jane Austen. *The Watsons*, a precursor to *Emma*, is the obligatory entry, but it is lesser Austen. The selection veers off the beaten path, by choosing other relatively obscure works by well-known authors (e.g., Mary Shelley and Virginia Woolf) along with compelling tales by noncanonical writers (L.M. Montgomery). Harriet Walter performs competently, but her range is narrow. She is clueless about the New Orleans accents and rhythms that should enliven Kate Chopin's *A Pair of Silk Stockings*. She does best when parsing the innuendos of class in Britain, as in Winnifred Holtby's *The Wronged Woman*. The result is a mixed bag inferior to the *Selected Shorts* series produced by Symphony Space. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Whether one is looking to dabble in the classics or enjoy an attention-grabbing tale, this collection of

stories by and about women will hold the listener captive until the last. Each story is beautifully written, with often-breathtaking prose and plot twists that transcend their time periods. Narrator Harriet Walter's awareness of and appreciation for each character is, simply put, perfect--whether the subject is the complex social structures of Jane Austen's England or one woman's quiet desperation in Kate Chopin's "A Pair of Silk Stockings." As one story ends and another begins, Walter transforms her voice without missing a beat immediately allowing the listener to become immersed in the next title. This collection will appeal to a wide audience, thanks to the unique skills of the authors and the narrator. L.B.F. Â© AudioFile 2009, Portland, Maine

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