



# The Thing About Great White Sharks: and Other Stories

*Rebecca Adams Wright*

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## **The Thing About Great White Sharks: and Other Stories** Rebecca Adams Wright

In this collection's richly imagined title story, our brutal and resourceful protagonist is determined to protect her family from a murderous, shark-ridden world—at any cost. Elsewhere, an old woman uncovers a sinister plot while looking after a friend's plants ("Orchids"), and a girl in the war-torn countryside befriends an unlikely creature ("Keeper of the Glass"). In "Barnstormers," a futuristic flying circus tries to forestall bankruptcy with one last memorable show. At the heart of "Sheila" is the terrible choice a retired judge must make when faced with the destruction of his beloved robotic dog, and "Yuri, in a Blue Dress" follows one of the last survivors of an alien invasion as she seeks help.

Extending from World War II to the far future, these fifteen stories offer a gorgeously observed perspective on our desire for connection and what it means to have compassion—for ourselves, for one another, for our past...and for whatever lies beyond.

## **The Thing About Great White Sharks: and Other Stories Details**

Date : Published February 10th 2015 by Little A

ISBN :

Author : Rebecca Adams Wright

Format : Kindle Edition 182 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review The Thing About Great White Sharks: and Other Stories for online ebook**

### **Debbie says**

(Fiction, Short Stories)

Many of these are set in the near-future or in dystopian worlds. In the title story, after “the fever” has turned all flora & fauna into human-attackers, Jennifer is conscripted by the government for ‘fear’ testing. Put into a room or a pool with such animals as pythons and sharks, her reactions are monitored for use in the military.

In Sheila, the story I remember most clearly, an elderly man faces the destruction of his beloved robotic dog. It’s heart-breaking.

Other stories include aliens or Orwellian futures.

If you’re a reader of science-fiction, or a fan of dystopia, do pick this book. For me, it was a little too weird.

3½ stars

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### **timothy dipper says**

#### **Going nowhere**

This book was a lot of short stories about nothing but nonsense taking you nowhere and ending in nowhere. Every time

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### **guiltlessreader says**

This is a special collection filled with magic, the surreal, and the very human. Full review on my blog [Guiltless Reading](#).

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### **Keith Blodgett says**

While the collection wasn't horrible or really even bad, though I finished it last night and it was the only thing I was reading I'm having a hard time recalling more than bits and pieces. The only thing sticking in my memory are a few scenes from the title story. If you asked I think I might be able to name one, maybe two other stories.

Much of this came across like writers workshop exercises as opposed to someone sitting down and just writing. It feels like the author was in a classroom and asked "Write a story about this. . ." or "Write an absurd story but make it believable (the title story). "

I didn't put it down and I did finish it. I wouldn't even be adverse to trying something else she's written. This though was okay. Nothing spectacular and in a week I'll probably have a hard time recalling the book at all.

The best I can say is it wasn't awful.

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### **NickyQoo says**

Love it, love it, love it! Look, I'm not being useful here. I never know how to talk about short stories. I just want to say that I absolutely love it!

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### **Beth Hunt says**

I just loved these stories! The only way I can describe the "feel" of them is to mention MTV's show called Liquid Television that aired in the 90s. Just like those surreal animated short films, these stories will have you going on quick little mental trips. This is not to say that the author's writing is in any way immature. She is articulate without being verbose and also possesses a straightforward style and the ability to grab your attention quickly. All of these qualities lend themselves very well to the short story genre. Pick up this book. You won't be disappointed!

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### **Kasey Jane says**

What does Rebecca Adams Wright know about great white sharks?

She knows what matters.

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### **Cheyenne Blue says**

Lean and sparse, these very short little stories paint stories with space for your head to fill in the gaps. Sci-fi, magical realism, historical, near future. They are edgy and uneasy. I picked up and put down often. Favorites were the title story, Yuri, in a Blue Dress, and Keeper of the Glass. Don't expect happy endings, and a lot of the time, don't expect... well, it's an ending, Jim, but not as we know it.

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### **Amy! says**

When I can't sleep, my husband reads to me. He just read me two different stories from this collection, and they were both so good, I stayed wide awake. The first one he read, "Sheila," was not only wonderful, it was gut-wrenching and left me sobbing, and the second, "Orchids," was so intriguing I wished it were longer.

I finally finished this collection, and all the stories in it were great. I didn't love any of them as much as I loved "Sheila," but they were all intriguing and really well written. I look forward to seeing what she does in the future

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## Duncanator says

Best short story collection I've read in years. These are mostly set in a slightly different version of our own world. Some are sci-fi, some are fantasy, but it's mostly about human drama. Please read this!

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## Ctgt says

Straightforward writing style with some very interesting concepts.

How far will a man go for the love of a robotic pet.

Instructions on how to properly gestate the alien life form in your body.

Two character actors finally meet out of character with unusual results.

Two classmates discover some unexplained incidents involving a recently deceased friend.

A creature made of glass.

A traveling salesman finds a bag that provides exactly what he needs to make a sale.....until the very end.

Mysterious bats who have the ability to take something unusual from humans.

7/10

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## Kayla Beck says

**Review originally posted on Bibliophilia, Please.**

I really enjoy short story anthologies, but I had no idea what a fucking treat *The Thing About Great White Sharks* would be. (I'm using coarse language to convey feeling, not my trashiness, by the way.) This is literary fiction just the way I like it - with a little bit of magical realism, a touch of sci-fi, and a mix of something else. It's shocking, horrible, and wonderful, all rolled into one.

My favorite two stories in the collection are "The Thing About Great White Sharks" and "Sheila". "Sheila", the first story in the collection, broke my heart into a million pieces and blew me away. Sheila, the titular character, is John's, the protagonist, Brittany spaniel, who also happens to be a robot. He's had her for 25+ years, bought when his wife was dying, and has become illegal to own because of the Ginger Creek incident. "Sheila" made me stop and consider the way breeds are treated and how responsible pet owners are usually the ones who suffer the most from bans. "The Thing About Great White Sharks" left me wanting more than I got, in the very best way possible. Jennifer, the main character, is a government test subject after an unknown disease causes all living things to attack and try to kill *Homo sapiens*. She is forced to battle various creatures so the results can be studied as the government searches for a cure. I think we need an entire book about her, mmkay?

I enjoyed most of the stories, but I will say that "What to Expect When You're Expecting an Alien Parasite", "Melville Loves Hawthorne", and "The Other Husband" went right over my head. If there was an underlying theme in any of them, they were beyond me. (I think "What to Expect When You're Expecting an Alien Parasite" may have just been humorous, but I'm making no guesses.) Other than those three, I have no other

issues with *The Thing About Great White Sharks* . It is glorious.

If you're not a reader of short stories, I highly recommend that you start with this one. There is a little bit of something for everyone, and with each story being only a few pages long, *The Thing About Great White Sharks* is a great book to pick up and set down (good luck with that!) as time allows. I will guarantee that you'll find something you like here. (I bet you're a fan of "Orchids", just you see.)

- 4.5/5 Stars -

*To satisfy FTC guidelines, I am disclosing that I received a copy of the novel from the publisher through TLC Book Tours* in exchange for an unbiased review. It has in no way affected the outcome. All expressed opinions are awesome, honest, and courtesy of me.

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### **Dayna says**

Put simply, this is an amazing book and not to be missed. Years from now, some of these stories will still wander through my mind like the very best kind of ghost.

Adams Wright has this magician's talent for breathtaking imagery that makes my teeth curl with envy. It's so good that in some stories, like "Tiger Bright," if you asked me to explain \*exactly\* what the metaphor meant to me, I'm not sure I could, yet I \*feel\* the unquestionable truth of the image like one would faced with a tiger's stare.

"Yuri, in a Blue Dress" is a flat-out masterpiece of verging on incomprehensible yet instinctively understandable storytelling, and solid science fiction to boot.

Lest you think the entire book will harrow you to exhaustion, Adams Wright is just as good at applying this enviable illustrative sense to comedy-- and the elusive, truly Dark Comedy that I love so much but so rarely encounter. Certainly not with such a deft hand. The title story shows this proudly, for one. "Orchids" does as well.

It's also rare for me, the older I get, to find books that make me speak aloud without thinking, and I lost track of how many times this collection had me talking to myself. "Keeper of the Glass" actually made me whisper, "Oh," to myself several times-- and every other story had me snorting laughter or choking back tears on the train. (Sometimes both! Lucky I didn't get kicked off at the station.)

Maybe that's why these tales will stay with me, persist-- stories always have something to tell you, but these, I had a conversation with, as well.

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### **SR says**

Fascinating, weird collection that veers from kids grieving a friend to bats that feed on sound to flowers that solve mysteries to the title story, which is *awesome*, and odd sci-fi concepts and invocations of myth.

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## **Nancy Heinrich says**

### **Couldn't finish**

The fantasies of this author are beyond my reading scope.

More than unbelievable tales of war, sharks, orchids and other topics were grouse at times and didn't appreciate the foul language. Short stories, yes.....but not enjoyable reading. Just couldn't finish this book !

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