



The Stories of Heinrich Böll

Heinrich Böll , Stefan Freund (Editor) , Leila Vennewitz (Translator) , Oskar Jorgensen (Illustrator)

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This volume collects sixty-three stories and novellas written by Heinrich Böll between 1947 and 1985. It brings together selections from Böll's earlier collections and some previously unpublished work. The chronological organization represents the entire span of Böll's career, from the stories of the early postwar period, to the masterfully satirical tales of later years.

The Stories of Heinrich Böll Details

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From Reader Review The Stories of Heinrich Böll for online ebook

Anatoly says

"Action Will Be Taken" is a short story written by Nobel Prize laureate, German writer Heinrich Boll. The story belongs to the genre of satire. The narrator told the story of his working in Alfred Wunsiedel's factory.

He started the story with the statement that, "By nature, I am inclined more to pensiveness and inactivity than to work" but as it appeared, he was the only one who understood the tragedy of being there.

The slogan "Action Will Be Taken" was used by the characters of the story everywhere. They used to show for the public their loyalty to the specific social values. The narrator accepted it. In the last part of the story, when the owner of the factory, Wunsiedel, declared "let's have some action!", the narrator delayed with an answer. This is what happened next:

"Wunsiedel, who seldom raised his voice, shouted at me: "Answer! Answer, you know the rules!" And I answered, under my breath, reluctantly, like a child who is forced to say: I am a naughty child. It was only by a great effort that I managed to bring out the sentence: "Action will be taken."

It was late, Wunsiedel was already dead. The narrator participated in his funeral as a mourner and mourning became his new job.

The story gives a good subject for discussion about the social problems, an attitude of the individual for the life and so on. The ability of the author to present a plot with a great sense of humor added motivation to read it.

This is the link to the text of the story:
[https://anarchistwithoutcontent.wordpress...](https://anarchistwithoutcontent.wordpress.com/2012/12/25/action-will-be-taken/)

Tom says

Read: Nicht nur Zur Weihnachtszeit

Howard says

OK i'm going to have to concede defeat on this one. His attitude that German Jews are not Germans is too much for me to tolerate. He writes skillfully about the horrors of life as conscripted soldiers or civilians and adds depth with an eye for the subtleties of everyday human interaction and thought processes. He is clearly a subscriber to dogmatic Christianity and the Germans' (pre-ironic awareness) obsession with the sublime which to me is offensively bland and ineffective as a message of hope or redemption to a current view of those who suffered (and suffer) war time life.

mohammadreza says

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Andrew says

I'm only half through these collections of stories, but I'm already stunned, hurt for words. I never, not until this year, wondered what people would have to write about or think about in Germany following WWII. Heinrich Boll was a German soldier in WWII, and I presume these stories are based in parts on what he experienced. Mainly they deal with a sense of confusion, nostalgia and various forms of escapism during the war and the economic devastation that followed in Germany. Though you know Germans were the "bad guys" these stories are powerful and sometimes harrowing, and you find it hard not to feel for the characters, and be glad you're not in their shoes.

*Might add: there's certainly no sympathy for the Reich coming from this ex-soldier. When the NSPD is mentioned, usually the characters seem incapable and helpless to understand or describe why they're in war.

The Scrivener's Quill says

I read the story, "Christmas not Just Once A Year." It is a melancholy story of the death of tradition and the true meaning of ritual. At the end only the potentially mentally unstable sunny and an old devout prelate can peacefully hold on. It speaks clearly to the commercialization and emptiness of the modern substance of the Christmas religious tradition.

Penny Jackson says

Many readers don't know Heinrich Boll since his death, but these stories about Germans are universal. He was a remarkably gifted and compassionate writer whose characters faced moral dilemmas during the war and after. There are stories here that still make me cry. Also recommended: Group Portrait With Lady.

Alberto Jacobo Baruqui says

Interesante, a veces (seguido) es ácido en sus relatos, pero eso lo hace divertido si tienes el humor para verlo así. Intenso, pero creo que se debe a su participación en la 2a Guerra mundial y a su incorporación al ejército Nazi.

Maksims Trivaškevišs says

Loved them!
