



From the Cradle to the Grave

Clare West (Editor) , Jennifer Bassett (Series Adviser) , H.G. Widdowson (Series Adviser)

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These stories explore the trials of life from youth to old age: the idealism of young people, the stresses of marriage, the anxieties of parenthood, and the loneliness and fears of older people. The wide variety of writing styles includes black humour, satire, and compassionate and realistic observation of the follies and foibles of humankind.

This collection contains stories by Evelyn Waugh, Roald Dahl, Somerset Maugham, Saki, Frank Sargeson, Raymond Carver, H.E. Bates, and Susan Hill.

From the Cradle to the Grave Details

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From Reader Review From the Cradle to the Grave for online ebook

Carrie says

Inspiring short stories and a very easy read for an hour or two. Gave me some ideas which authors I would definitely like when reading more from them. Would be a great treat for anybody, who enjoys fiction with a touch of black humour. The book starts with a gentle reminder, quoting Virginia Woolf 'Fiction is like a spider's web, attached ever so slightly perhaps, but still attached to life in all four corners'.

Elle says

Satire and black humour of life. Great collections of short stories.

Zainab says

Every story was a unique piece that really was more or less about humans in various but similar situations. I love the title because it resembles all the stories and all the emotions we experience and go through in different stages in our lives, through adulthood, parenthood and aging. even though we all have different and rich lives, we experience and relate to each other's emotions.

I loved the final story, *A bit of singing and dancing*, it is about this woman who her mother passed away but she cannot cope with her death, not because she experiences extreme grief but because she cannot let go of her mother's dominating voice that told her how to live, that controlled her moral compass and judged her choices. as he mother dies she thought she will be freed from her living style and from her opinion on everything but she found that she followed that way her mother thought and said if my mother was her she would have said this about that. I just love the collection and it was brilliant from the editor to put those stories from different authors together and give it this title that connects them all under one theme, humans.

Gozde says

çok eskiden, ingilizce öğrenmeye yeni başladığımız dönemlerde alıp kitaplarımızda unuttuğum bir kitap?. çok keyifli hikayeler içeriyor.

Francisco Cebrián says

Bueno, tengo que decir que este libro no lo compré por voluntad propia (por lo cual la nota es fácil de explicar: si lo hubiese visto no lo hubiese cogido por no ser del tipo que más me agrada, sabiendo que mi opinión iba a ser floja).

En efecto, mi opinión es floja. Este libro hace un compendio breve de ocho historias sobre la vida

(estereotipos ingleses incluidos) de autores famosos -¿a alguien le suena 'Frozen pizza and another slices of life'?, pues una copia sustancialmente mejor, pero sin echar cohetes-.

La gran mayoría previsible, otras sin enseñanza, otras que se alargaban, y -salvo un par- el resto anodinas. Las primeras, previsible y de una ironía de la que se podía extraer poco. Otras como la del dentista me parecieron un tanto vacías; la del niño en coma un sinsentido que lo cobra solo de puño y letra del autor. Quizá me llamó la atención la última, a *Bit of singing and dancing*, la historia de un buen hombre que decide alojarse en la casa de la chica cuya madre murió hace poco (bueno, chica no, que tiene 51 años ya) y trabaja dignamente, en invierno de vendedor y en verano de un oficio que no revela. Hasta que ella finalmente lo descubre y, pese a que quiere echarlo de su casa, después reflexiona y se percata de que es un trabajo honesto, de que jamás le mintió y que, por otra parte, pagaba religiosamente, por lo que se encariña de él. Por la cantidad de reflexiones subyacente -y además su lógica filosófica- me gustó mucho esa última. Después, salvo momentos puntuales, el resto no me pareció de mucho más de un tres.

Mi nota sería de 2.5 estrellas. Libro muy bueno en cuanto al nivel (este sí que es un C1 verdadero, no como el de *Frozen Pizza*), pero que solo sirve para eso: para reforzar el inglés y aprender más léxico. Para acudir a historias conmovedoras, fascinantes o que inciten a la reflexión hay que tirar por otros derroteros.

Mina Soare says

I liked *The Colonel's Lady* a lot, *Mr. Loveday's little outing* and *Tea?*, although that struck a little too close to home.

David says

jhlghj

María Ferre says

Historias diferentes provenientes de la tradición anglosajona del siglo pasado y el anterior. Una lectura obligatoria de clase con la que he tenido numerosos conflictos debido al absurdo machismo que hay en cada una de las historias. Sí, sé que no son relatos de este siglo y que el machismo era algo del día a día, pero no se me puede obligar a apreciarlo. Porque no. Mira *Frankenstein*, tan antiguo y retratando a la mujer como una más de la familia, a pesar de su posición en la época. Por tanto, no hay excusa que valga. Este libro puede irse un poco a tomar el sol (a ver si se quema).

Sora says

Really liked the way the stories are written and the creativity that show the different stories, being aware of the century and context that those stories were written. The personalities of the characters were pretty interesting since you could interpret many of their thoughts through their actions. I enjoyed this book but it should be read without pressure. You should take your time to read every story.

julieta says

Great stories by great writers. Carver, Maugham, etc.

Namiko says

It includes:

Tea: Saki

Mr. Loveday's Little Outing: Evelyn Waugh

The Colonel's Lady: Somerset Maugham

Mrs. Bixby and The Colonel's Coat: Roald Dahl

They gave Her a Rise: Frank Sargeson

The Bath: Raymond Carver

Same Time, Same Place: H.E. Bates

A Brr of Singing and Dancing: Susan Hill

I liked "Mr. Loveday's Little Outing", which is black humor, "The Colonel's Lady," which is a love story, "Mrs. Bixby and The Colonel's Coat," which has a twist, "Same Time, Same Place," which I felt sad, "A Brr of Singing and Dancing," which I wonder why people were disapproval of Mr. Curry's job.

Bernadette says

Reading for work.

Mar +9 says

I couldn't decide if I had to give it 2 or 3 stars: I enjoyed some stories more than others and it's difficult to think about this book globally.

My favorite stories were "Mrs Bixby and the colonel's coat" and "Mr Loveday's little outing".

I guess it's a nice book to read for school, better than the other I read.
