



The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel

By Amy Hempel

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Amy Hempel is a master of the short story. This celebrated volume gathers together her complete work -- four short collections of stunning stories about marriages, minor disasters, and moments of revelation.

With her inimitable compassion and wit, Hempel introduces characters who make choices that seem inevitable, and whose longings and misgivings evoke eternal human experience.

For readers who have known Hempel's work for decades and for those who are just discovering her, this indispensable volume contains all the stories in *Reasons to Live*, *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*, *Tumble Home*, and *The Dog of the Marriage*. No reader of great writing should be without it.

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The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel By Amy Hempel Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Hempel's four collections of short fiction are all masterful; while readers await the follow-up to last year's acclaimed *The Dog of the Marriage*, this compendium restores the full set to print. The first of Hempel's books, *Reasons to Live* (1985), is justly celebrated by Rick Moody in his preface as a landmark of its era's "short-story renaissance"; it introduces Hempel's unmistakable tone, where a "besieged consciousness," Moody says, hones sentences to bladelike sharpness "to enact and defend survival." The second, *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom* (1990), is the main reason to buy this book: used copies are scarce, and the collection contains stories like "The Harvest." Hempel's genius, whether in first or third person, is to make her characters' feelings completely integral to the scenes they inhabit; her terse descriptions become elegantly telegraphic—and telepathic—reportage, with not a word wasted and not a single fact embellished. Her great subject is the failure of human coupling, and she charts it at every stage: giddy beginnings, sexy thick-of-its, wan (or violent) outcomes, grim aftermaths. Seeing it laid out kaleidoscopically in this volume is an awesome thing indeed, and a pleasure lovers of the short story will not want to deny themselves. (May)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review With the publication of her first book of short stories, *Reasons to Live* (1985), Hempel earned a strong position in the vanguard of the minimalist school of fiction writing, in vogue at that time and especially significant in the short story genre. Her three succeeding collections of stories, the most recent being *The Dog of the Marriage* (2005), maintained her high stature as a short story writer. She generally continued to compose tightly hewn stories despite the fact that minimalism as a stylistic movement was shrinking around her like a drying riverbed. The stories from her previous collections are gathered here into a single volume, and her achievement in the form is now boldly obvious. She has never imitated, never been just a somewhat anonymous member of a pack of talented storywriters. She is an original, having found--and kept--her unique way of expressing her not so much cut-and-dried as deeply penetrating vision. As the 70-page story "Tumble Home" testifies, Hempel can write longer than usual for her, and certainly that interior monologue by a patient in a mental institution is arresting in its pristine tracing of a pattern of thought. Nevertheless, she is at her best by far in the short, highly imagistic, sparely plotted, stiletto-keen slice of narrative that in her hands glistens in its sheerness, and for that she has made short story history. *Brad Hooper*

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Review

"It's a given that someday a major world religion will arise from this book. It will become a religious text for our descendants, and millions will burn candles around statues of Ms. Hempel. She is a wonder. Honestly, each time you read this book it shortens your time in Purgatory and speeds your eventual salvation."

—Chuck Palahniuk, for *The New York Post*

"This could be a very short review. Read this book. These stories are...always original and perfectly expressed." -- *New York Times Book Review*

"The literary event of the year." -- *The Village Voice*

"Amy Hempel's dazzling wit and exquisite use of language are impossible to disclaim." -- *San Francisco*

Chronicle

"Hempel is unique. Her word-by-word virtuosity is off the charts; her artistic evolution is phenomenal." -- *Chicago Tribune*

"Hempel has established herself among the strongest voices in American fiction.... Hers is the work of a brave, unflinching mind.... Her prose conveys a world stripped to its essences." -- *Los Angeles Times*

"Over and over again, Hempel pulls out life's pathos so concisely, so extraordinarily, and yet underneath it all is affirmation.... In short, Hempel makes you into a better reader." -- *San Francisco Chronicle*

"A veritable cosmos of revelations is in reach in *The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel*." -- *Chicago Tribune*

"Few fiction writers are as intensely admired by their peers as is Hempel.... Hempel's is a hard-boiled sensibility, and each of her stories will leave the reader shaken." -- *The Atlantic Monthly*

"As gripping as any novel...Tart, shimmering fables of passion." -- *The New York Observer*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frank Lantz:

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Fernande Hairston:

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Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this *The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel* guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still question *The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel* as good book not

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Edward Doucet:

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