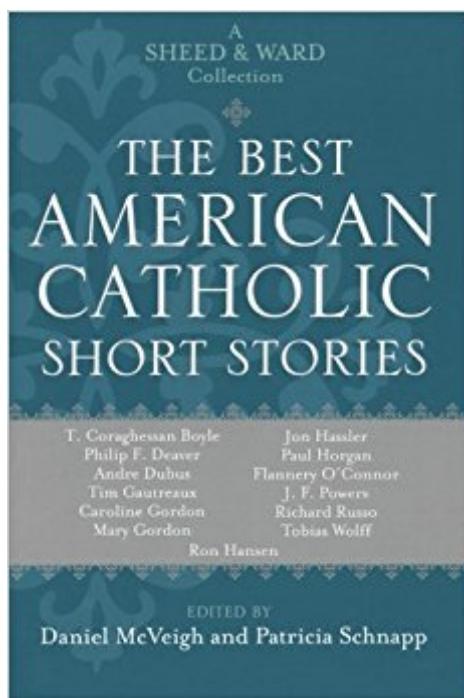


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# The Best American Catholic Short Stories: A Sheed & Ward Collection



## Synopsis

The Best American Catholic Short Stories captures twenty of the best short stories from thirteen American Catholic writers over the past seventy-five years. Spanning most of the twentieth century, the stories in this collection deal with many of the issues brought into the spotlight with Vatican II. One ongoing area of controversy, of course, is in the very notion of Catholic fiction. What constitutes a work as "Catholic"? This new collection, with its rich variety of themes, styles, and tones, takes an important step in answering this question. Pat Schnapp and Dan McVeigh have assembled an extraordinary sampling that is unique in its subject and scope. Major contributors include Mary Gordon, Flannery O'Connor, Ron Hansen, T. Coraghessan Boyle, and Richard Russo.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An inspired collection of short stories from prolific Catholic writers over the past 75 years, this compilation is highlighted by Richard Russo's memoir, 'The Whore's Child;' Andre Dubus's complex family tale, 'A Father's Story;' Philip F. Deaver's provocative story of a man looking for inner peace, 'Silent Retreats;' and classics from Flannery O'Connor ('The Displaced Person') and Mary Gordon ('Mrs. Cassidy's Last Year'). (Library Journal)A must-read for anyone who likes a good story.

...Stories of this kind with their layers of meaning cry out to be discussed. (St. Anthony Messenger, March 2009)... this book is intended to introduce a major group of Catholic authors worth considering. It provides a need in anthologies that has not yet been addressed.... I would buy this text if I were looking for some challenging reading and I would recommend it as a text on a course

about Catholic authors. (Xavier Review)

A member of the Sisters of Mercy, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Patricia Schnapp is associate professor of English at Siena Heights University. Daniel McVeigh is also professor of English at Siena Heights University. Both live in Adrian, Michigan.

This book of short stories was a real surprise. There were unexpected acts of violence & stories with unique twists. Don't let your mind wander while reading these, because you need to stay focused to catch the swift changes & incidents that will occur. I thought religion was going to be the main thrust, but I was wrong. Also, used the Internet to critique some of these short stories. They will be explained in better detail & you might be surprised by what you missed.

Purchased for a class; surprisingly good writing full of complexities and complications.

Recommended, even for people (like me) who are not Catholic but love literature, religious study or human behavior.

This book has nothing to do with the Catholic faith and the stories don't mention religion. The authors are all Catholic but the short stories lack any sort of religious message or inspiration. Very disappointed.

This book has a compilation of short stories by Catholic writers that many, especially Catholics, have forgotten. I am already familiar with Flannery O'Conner but was not as familiar with her contemporary, R F Powers. In addition to these two celebrated writers, there are many others. Thoroughly enjoyable reading with Catholic imagery that many of us can relate.

Here is a great collection, some authors I was familiar with and some not. It spans almost 70 years of Catholic short stories and for the most part is in chronological order. This is a great book to get some idea's for further readings in Catholic fiction. Like Andrew M. Greeley's Sacred Visions, did for Catholic Science Fiction or Fantasy this book will introduce you to a whole generation of Catholic authors and give you a good sampling of their works. I am already planning on tracking down more from the authors I had not encountered and broadening my spectrum of reading.

Wonderful choices made by the editors from the best of modern Catholic short stories. Not an

overtly "religious" collection, but a highly readable group of stories which are simply beautifully written and deal, in one way or another, with the over-arching concept of redemption. Can only hope the editors are gathering material for volume two!

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