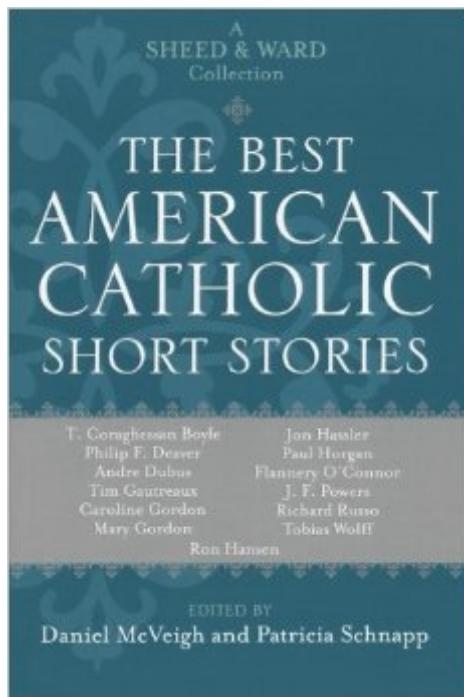


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# The Best American Catholic Short Stories: A Sheed & Ward Collection



## **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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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (5 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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