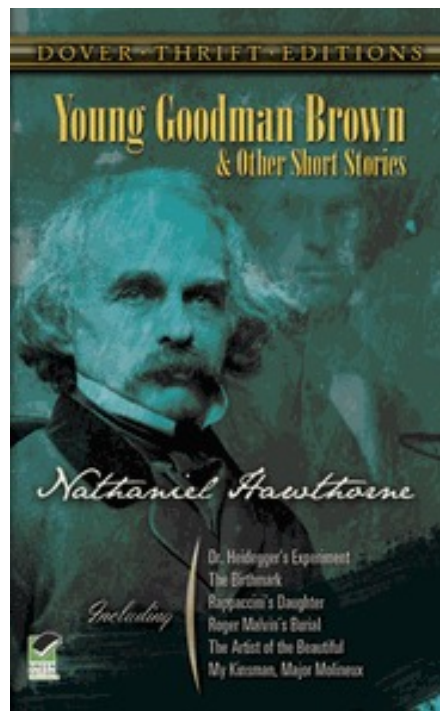




Young Goodman Brown and Other Short Stories

Nathaniel Hawthorne

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Young Goodman Brown and Other Short Stories Nathaniel Hawthorne

Throughout his richly varied literary career, Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) wrote compelling short stories of enduring appeal. His first important publication, long before *The Scarlet Letter*, was the 1837 collection *Twice-Told Tales*, which brought the New England writer immediate fame and high praise from no less an authority than Edgar Allan Poe. Another compilation, *Mosses from an Old Manse*, followed in 1846 and achieved further success.

This volume contains six stories from those collections as well as another superb selection, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux." In addition to the latter tale and the title story, this edition includes "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment," "The Birthmark," "Rappaccini's Daughter," "Roger Malvin's Burial" and "The Artist of the Beautiful." Here are tales rich in atmosphere and suspense, with plots centering on subjects as diverse as witchcraft, revenge, the power of guilt, and a passion for the beautiful, all recounted in the distinctive voice of one of America's great writers.

Young Goodman Brown and Other Short Stories Details

Date : Published February 5th 1992 by Dover Publications (first published 1844)

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Author : Nathaniel Hawthorne

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From Reader Review Young Goodman Brown and Other Short Stories for online ebook

Julia says

This is a collection of short stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Most are pretty creepy and fun. Good fun literature.

Dani Meier says

Great stories. Clever ways of making his points. I found "The Birthmark" to be particularly insightful, especially in light of my own personal and familial experiences with this type of 'phenomenon' (not with regard to the tragic ending, chas v'shalom, but with regard to issues involved!).

Andrew says

Now I will be honest and I will admit I will struggle here. This edition I will admit is not quite the one I have - yes mine is the Dover Thrift edition (bought from a shall village shop that had the entire series, which I wished I had bought more off. Sadly when I returned the shop and the display where no longer there) However it seems this format/edition does not exist any more so I have had to settle for the next best (and somehow this is where the ISBN sent me too?)

Anyway the reason why I am going to struggle is that I am not by nature a classics readers and so will probably do MR Hawthorne a total disservice (after reading the notes in the book too I totally feel ill equipped the comment).

However the stories in this book are fascinating. Yes they give an insight in to the writings of the time which for someone who is interested in history but has not got the time (ironic) to go through all the boring bits or the academia finds other ways to explore the past. Stories in this book are a perfect example where they are clearly creations of the time they were written in.

The title story is a perfect example of this (Young Goodman Brown) where you have a clear demonstration of what community and reputation (especially religious) hold, something that is almost unrecognisable in todays society it feels. After all if the Devil was to tempt you what would he have to stump up today as compared to times past.

This book is was not really my forte but I do recognise the vision especially considering when it was written but not only that you can see the mind that went on create works that are revered by both scholars and authors alike (for example Edgar Allan Poe).

As usual Dover Thrift have presented a book that tantalises and temps - they are in general quite short books to show case and tempt you to delve further. Sadly my collection is somewhat limited (I have a number of Jack London books) but one day I will go back and explore some more.

The Fangirling Booknerd says

I have to say I enjoyed these short stories more than I enjoy poems. But again, classic works of literature just aren't for me.

Bettie? says

Dr Heidegger's Experiment
The Birthmark
Young Goodman Brown
Rappaccini's Daughter
Roger Malvin's Burial
The Artist of the Beautiful
My Kinsman, Major Molyneux

Elizabeth says

Hawthorne's short stories are masterful: Puritans; dank atmospheres, fantastical subjects. Rarely, the moralistic attitudes mar my enjoyment.

Carole says

Hawthorne never gets old or out of date. Ahead of his time, he revealed the dark uncanny underbelly of the young America and cast a shrewd and bright light upon his ancestors, the mythologized Puritans. His story "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" casts a nightmarish shadow that does not dissipate quickly.

Mina says

Nothing is complete in a Gothic library without this book.

N.T. Embe says

My feelings about this book are much less impressive than those of the last I read for this class of mine. Did this book have a couple of good tales to tell? Eh... I suppose in some ways it did. Was it something that I enjoyed? ...not completely. I read it because it was there to read. Not much of it had me excited, let alone even engaged too comfortably. I found my mind wandered very frequently during this read, and though most

of the stories Hawthorne wrote were well done, at least in terms of vocabulary and actual plot, they were also all... rather dull.

I think out of all of them, "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment," "The Birthmark," "Rappaccini's Daughter," and "The Artist of the Beautiful" were my favorites. But did they elicit from me anything other than an admiration for the concepts that Hawthorne presented? ...not really. The man can tell a story--that is unquestionable. He can also provide the mind with many deep and profound thoughts to dwell on, to mull over--food for the mind and not just mere trifles to read for entertainment. And from the point of view of one looking to increase their mental capacity, or enjoy writing for the artistic sake, this would probably be a very good addition to someone's library.

Yet nonetheless I found that for all that I *enjoyed* this book... it did not blow me away. There is an underlying tone in all these stories that elicits no emotions--no reader reaction. It is the tale told a child by an elderly man who continues to babble even when the child has little to no understanding of what they are saying. And though I'm not saying that Hawthorne is impossible to read, or even that he's difficult to understand (for his stories were quite straightforward for the most part), I am saying that he has very little claim over the skillful use of tone. He talks, and it's the same note from the beginning of the book to the ending, even when the stories change from one variety to another. And such a monotony of tone throughout various tales that have the potential to elicit so much *life* makes the book (however short it is) drag on even longer than necessary.

Shrugs It's a mixed bag of goodies. It presents you with wonderful concepts and ideas to entertain, but I feel that the execution isn't something that fits the excitement that most of those ideas conjure up within me. It's a case where personally--many may disagree with me on this--the storyteller's voice doesn't suit the tale he tells, regardless his eloquence in the conveyance. But for the ideas, it's still a great book worth picking up, and something that you should definitely try out just for the experience. Take it out of your library and give it a read-through! You'll come away a little more full for the knowledge and thoughtfulness it brings you.

Tara says

"The Birthmark" is one of my favorite short stories. In fact I named one of my dogs after the main character.

Cassa says

I'm recommending this more for "Rappaccini's Daughter" than the rest. "Young Goodman Brown" was decent but a little over-the-top in its moral. I don't recall "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" enough to comment, and I don't think I've read the rest. But "Rappaccini's Daughter" was a lovely read. I'm a sucker for tragic love in any form, and the fact that this story added a creepy horror/psychological-thriller aspect to it all with some early sci-fi made it all the better. Probably one of the better classic works I've been forced to read in class, and one of the very few I've truly enjoyed outside Shakespeare.

Sergio says

This book... that was a delight! I loved Hawthorne's style.
He tells of things horrible and beautiful. There's darkness and there's light.
Will reread this collection surely.

Laura says

Okay, I haven't read every one of these stories, and my rating is only for the title story. Here's the thing: Young Goodman Brown is actually based on my great-something-grandfather Joseph Ring and his rather ignoble role in one of the infamous Salem witch trials. Hawthorne's account of Young Goodman Brown's supernatural encounter in the woods matches almost exactly my ancestor's testimony recorded in the trial of Susanna Martin. It is a fascinating and disturbing glimpse of the fear, paranoia, and "siege mentality" that characterized much of colonial American life.

Laurel says

this could be the story responsible for the shudder evoked by the titles "goodman", and particularly... "goodie" for a woman. i don't know why, but calling a woman "goodie" gives me the willlllies.

Melinda Jane Harrison says

Hawthorne is the master of ambiguity, a lost art form in modern fiction. I constantly reread his work and wrote a college paper on The Scarlet Letter, which so impressed me after studying that I wondered how he made such a complex tale look so deceptively simple. His work definitely is a major influence on my current writing.

Jamie says

wasn't much the content that did it for me, but his personification of natural force. although it's a bit arrogant to ascribe human traits to things around us, it still creeps me the hell out when its done well. same thing I like about Steinbeck.

Charles Kato says

Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" is an allegorical tale about every man's struggle between doing what is right and doing what is wicked. The story opens with Goodman Brown and his wife Faith in an emotional dialogue where Faith begs Goodman to not leave her side. Goodman insisted, Faith acquiesced and the journey began into the dark woods of Salem. After travelling deep into the dense forest he met the devil; a familiar man with a serpent shaped staff. Eventually Brown arrived at his destination, a mystical secret gathering of the town. After having witnessed this evil gathering and due to his poor choice in leaving Faith, Brown loses hope in all that is good. The author's use of symbolism helps illustrate that if you succumb to the temptation to leave faith in the pursuit of curiosity that eventually evil and sadness will be brought upon you. An exciting book and a must read.

Julie says

Hawthorne writes with imagination and sensitivity.

Emily (Obsessed Reader) says

I ONLY READ YOUNG GOODMAN BROWN.

When first reading this for my gothic lit. class I was not at all enjoying it. It felt hard to read, and I wasn't understanding everything that was going on. However, after delving deeper into the meanings behind the story and analyzing it, I was able to enjoy it and appreciate it more. I think it is an interesting tale of good versus evil and understanding that no human is purely good. I would definitely recommend researching the meaning behind the story before reading it to make the experience more enjoyable.

Stephan Peters says

This is a difficult review, as many of the stories are awesome, and some not so awesome. These stories of Hawthorne are not really as good if read through quickly once.

They really need to be read, mulled over, and re-read. Then they are awesome as you realize some of the nuances and some of what he is really trying to say.

... and then they become AWESOME - like "Oh Wow! That's what he was getting at!" awesome.

Dr. Heidegger's Experiment - 4 Stars - What would people really be like if they could "do it all over again?"

The Birthmark - 5 Stars - What happens when "science" conflicts with myth and faerie?

Young Goodman Brown - 5 Stars - How well do you really know your neighbours, before and after offering your soul to the devil?

Rappaccini's Daughter - 5 Stars - What if Man creates his own Eden? Who is evil, who is good?

Roger Malvin's Burial - 5 Stars - What if you leave your lover's father to die, at his request, and with a blessing on you and your daughter? And break s promise you made on his deathbed?

The Artist of the Beautiful - 3 Stars - I suspect it deserves more, and I just didn't understand what Hawthorne was trying to say. I found it long and boring. With a cast of characters from a Tennessee Williams play.

My Kinsman, Major Molineux - 4 Stars - At first reading American Propaganda; "You can do anything you want regardless of family or background." At later readings, why was Major Molineux really found in the situation he was? Where is the true evil?
