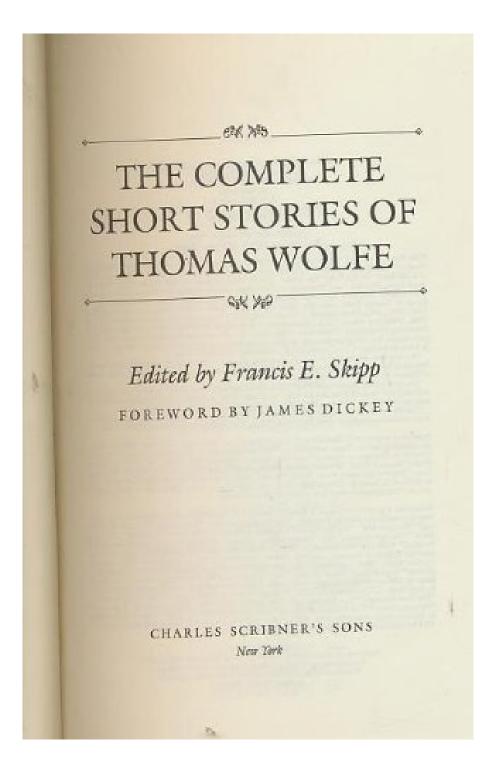


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Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A Great Starting Point for Readers who Want to Explore Wolfe

By David Crumm

As a life-long Thomas Wolfe fan, I want to add my voice that this is a terrific choice of a Wolfe sampler for readers who may be curious about Thomas Wolfe after seeing Genius On my library shelf, I've got all the "big books" and, throughout my life at various points, I've found time to wade through them, savoring the prose. If you're a Wolfe fan, as some of the other reviewers on this Amazon page are, then you know what we're talking about. Reading Wolfe is like taking a long imaginative walk and sitting down on a bench somewhere to enjoy the comings and goings and aspirations and tragedies of American life with a narrator who doesn't mind pulling out all the stops in playing his prose.

The problem is: If you feel moved to try some Wolfe and you start with the "big books," you're likely to wind up with a door-stopper of a book gathering dust somewhere. He's a challenge. He's a glorious challenge, but this is why I'm adding another 5 stars to this collection of short stories. They're terrific gateway samples of his work.

I actually keep my copy of this book in my car. Whenever I'm heading somewhere that's likely to involve a wait, I tote my short story collection with me and often I can enjoy one or two while I'm waiting. Far more fun than tapping away on my smart phone for half an hour.

If you're just coming to discover Thomas Wolfe, yes, obviously you want to wind up sampling one of the "big books," but seriously consider starting with this marvelous and very readable volume.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Fabulous short stories filled with poetry, genius, magnificent language and insight.

By Anne Rice

So it's taken me four or five years since I purchased this book to actually start reading it, and it is my introduction to Thomas Wolfe, about whom I've heard all my life, but never read. And the stories are magnificent. They are pure poetry. They are filled with thrilling and magnificent language --- language that over and over again celebrates the senses, the sensual, the material, the real --- whether Wolfe is writing of

human beings making love, or the great natural world, or city streets, or prairies or the taste of food. This is a feast of great poetic sentences, phrases, observations, reflections. This is genius breaking all the rules. This is genius offering insight, wisdom, passion and poetry in story after story. I am making my way through, reading two to three stories a day, and Wolfe is invigorating my mind, flooding it with beauty as if this book were rain and my mind were the earth thirsting for the rain. Highly recommended, the work of this brilliant writer. I am profoundly thankful for the work of the editors on this volume, seeking to restore these stories to the form in which Wolfe wanted to see them published.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Great Stories. The man could teach the difference in ...

By Robert Connor

Great Stories. The man could teach the difference in the smells of earth, describe love, angst, distaste, love and tenderness better than anyone I have read before. No wonder people speculate as to what he could have done had he lived through at least WWII.

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