

BLOOD BY JANICE GALLOWAY



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From Publishers Weekly

The brilliant, vividly drawn images in this marvelous collection will deliver a satisfying shock of recognition to American readers, and no doubt ensure acclaim for this young Scottish writer. A character's waist-length hair is cut for the first time in "Into the Roots" and we see that "a long neck, very white from lack of sun, had grown up in the dark like a silent mushroom." In the title story, a tooth is pulled, "the gum parting with a sound like uprooting potatoes." Still other stories evoke darkly stained, often disturbing, images of human nature: A young woman remembers cowering behind her mother's skirts at the spectre of Fearless, the eponymous bogeyman, who would "clink and drag" up the street "like Marley's ghost." In "later he would open his eyes," an elderly couple's suicide pact has the old man imagining their car as it plunges off an embankment "ticking over like a child's cough. Ticking over and lurching as though it might stall." If it is the job of the serious writer to recreate experience and give it new life on the page, then Galloway (*The Trick Is to Keep on Breathing*) should be gainfully employed for many years to come.

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From Kirkus Reviews

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About the Author

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BLOOD BY JANICE GALLOWAY PDF

A collection of short stories whose main subject is fear - from the dawning terror of a child abused by her uncle to an adult's day-to-day dread of strangers. Throughout there is seen to be a constant underlying threat of violence. The author also wrote "The Trick is to Keep Breathing".

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Virtuoso work

By A Customer

This book of short stories has no one theme, but gets its shape and unification from Galloway's strong, highly individual voice and the eerie atmosphere of fear and tenderness it manages to convey. From the very short (*The Meat*) to the longer pieces (*A week with Uncle Felix*) this collection rattles with desperate life, vividness and a visceral edge all its own. I defy anyone to read *BLOOD* (the title story) without feeling the sensation of a former tooth extraction, though what she does with the story goes much further, turning an everyday, unremarkable mutilation into a parable threaded with loss, yearning and isolation from the heroine's dearest source of comfort, music. Highly recommended to anyone who wants to read more in the contemporary Scots voice or who enjoys virtuoso writing for its own sake. Galloway is a rare, brave writer.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

The strange bits I have found in blood

By Barbara Fletcher

The inside of Janice Galloway's head scares me. *Blood* is a bizarre but mesmerizing collection of strange short stories, unsettling almost-plays, and uncomfortable snapshots of human nature. Her words walk that sharp line between brilliance and madness, and you are never quite sure what side you have landed until it's much too late. These stories are clever and brutal. Twisted things happen to a menagerie of misfits. Simple, everyday events are carefully braided together into something with which you will end up flagellating yourself after a few pages. And there are never more than a few pages; you don't know if you really want there to be more pages. But, really, you do.

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