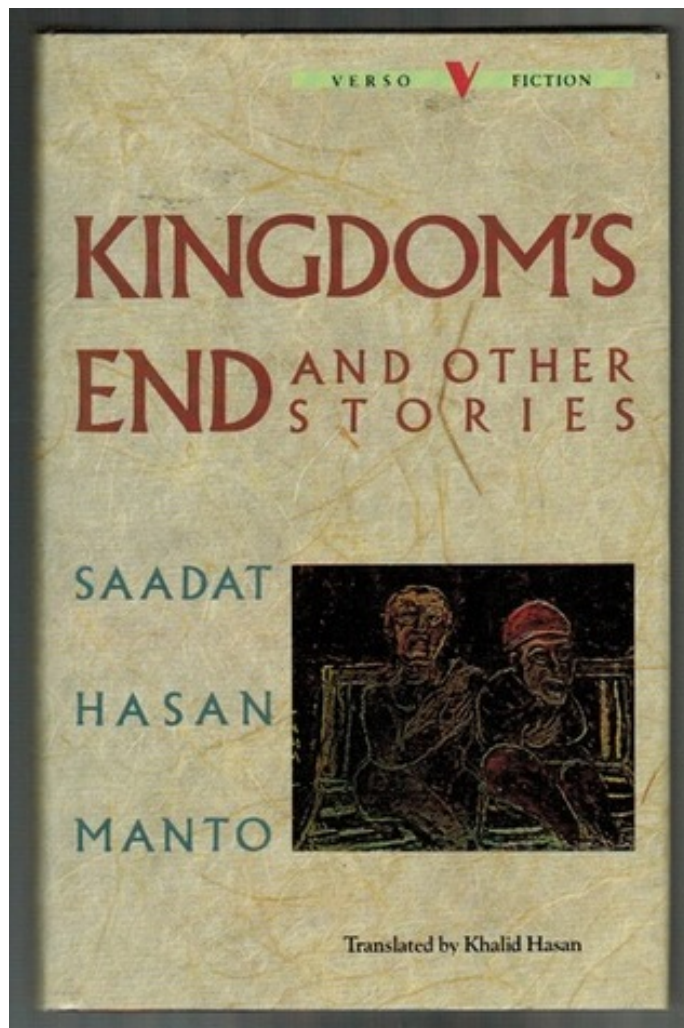

Saadat Hasan Manto

Kingdom's End and Other Stories



Title: Kingdom's End and Other Stories

Author: Saadat Hasan Manto

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Description

The most widely read and the most translated writer in Urdu. Saadat Hasan Manto (1912-1955) is also the most controversial: he was tried for obscenity no less than six times, both before and after the departure of the British from India in 1947. In a writing career spanning over two decades, Manto, one of Urdu's great stylists, produced a powerful and original body of work including short stories, a novel, radio plays, essays and film scripts.

This collection brings together some of Manto's finest stories, ranging from his chilling recounting of the horrors of Partition to his portrayal of the underworld. Writing with great feeling and empathy about the fallen and the rejects of society, Manto the supreme humanist shows how the essential goodness of people does not die even in the face of unimaginable suffering. Powerful and deeply moving, these stories remain as relevant today as they were first published more than half a century ago.

Insightful reviews

Puneri: I had heard a lot about Manto. But somehow never got around reading anything written by him. Finally, got this short story book and am mesmerized by his style, substance and the insight into human mind. Manto, who was born in British India went to Pakistan after the partition. Many of the stories revolve around those times, people and the inner feeling of who is Pakistani now and who is Hindustani? Every story has a character that definitely raises this question. How can a person be someone else just because the geographical boundary changed his place of residence? The Last Salute revolves around this dilemma. Many stories portray women, who otherwise be looked upon as only prostitutes/ or some one with low social standing. But in his stories of Mummy and A Woman's Life we see them in different light. The story of Mozail is just out of this world. Manto writes with his uncanny ability to look deep in human mind. He does not make an attempt to explain anything and in a way explains everything. In some the stories he appears as Manto, as a character in the story (Bapu Gopinath, Mummy). His humor and satire is extraordinary (Two Nation Theory). All the stories are powerful. However, the translation is a little too literal. The translator has literally translated some of the foul words in English. That defeats the purpose of those words. That job could have done better. But I am glad for the English translation since I can not read Urdu. Manto is a must for everyone who lived through partition and been through those dilemmas. Will recommend to everyone.

Prakash Yadav: A gem! I have used and abused the word before but never meant it until today. Manto is a classic and its infuriating that he is not recognized like Gogol or Oscar Wilde, not the kind of classic that one pretends to read but the classic that will live for ever by its own accord. I wish I could ride a review for each of the twenty eight pearls therein, but I fear I will run out of adjectives even before i begin.

He is an amalgamation of Gogol, Camus, Nabokov and Wilde, only better than each, perhaps because as an Indian reader I can relate more to the underlying concepts and the backdrop of the partition, undeniable richer experience than to an alien.

I firmly believe Hindustani is a superior language of expression in literature, and reading Manto

in English is a crime I will have to live with. Khalid Hasan has done a good job, but one will only be satisfied to read Manto in the original. So that is on my queue by default.

Stories like 'Odour' and 'On the balcony' are among the best descriptive short stories I have read. 'The Return' (originally "Khol Do") is another tragedy that is so heartbreaking, it was quite embarrassing that such a short piece of literature can impact so deeply. What Khaled Hosseini managed in a full novel, Manto did in a three pages.

Its been recommended that I carry on to Ismat Chughtai, and I will be a fool not to take this advice.

Needless to say, 5 stars.

vik: I have many story collections of Manto.

I wish I knew more Urdu words to enjoy it even more.

Sugan Shreyas: The brilliance of this booklet is that it leaves you pondering which of his tales are actual and which of them are fiction. Sheer genius who writes semi-fiction within the guise of brief stories. it really is either light-hearted and heavy, the characters either gruesome and beautiful.. like every strong art, i would need to retain coming again to it to know the paintings in its entirety.

Shantanu Chaudhary: enjoyed all of the stories..

Parvathi Ram: my favourites are toba tek singh, the assignment, odour, a guy of god, the gift, the puppy of titwal, country theory. his tales on partition and its violence are center wrenching. so few phrases and rather a lot meaning...

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