



# The Complete Short Stories of Guy de Maupassant, Part One

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**The Complete Short Stories of Guy de Maupassant, Part One** Guy de Maupassant 1903. Part One contains Volumes I-IV of X. French author of the naturalistic school, Maupassant is generally considered to be the greatest French short story writer of his day. The Complete Short Stories contains the 300 short stories Maupassant wrote during the 1880s, including his horror fiction, which consists of some 39 stories, only a tenth of his total. See other titles by this author available from Kessinger Publishing. Other volumes in this set are ISBN(s): 1417936150.

## The Complete Short Stories of Guy de Maupassant, Part One Details

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## From Reader Review The Complete Short Stories of Guy de Maupassant, Part One for online ebook

### Natalie M says

I just have to say everyone should read Maupassant he is insightful and so honest it can hurt. I only wish i could read him in French!

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### Andres says

I absolutely enjoy reading his short stories, especially because he describes the characters and the scenery so vividly. Here are some of my favorites: The Necklace(of course), Bellflower, and Le Horla. Because his stories are considered public domain, you can legally download many of his stories from here: <http://manybooks.net/search.php?searc...>

I encourage you to at least read one story if you aren't familiar with his work. Promise you'll like it!

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### Ratnadip Acharya says

This man had real mastery on short stories. No author, be it O. Henry, Hemingway, Tolstoy, Chekov or ever Tagore, can beat his excellence at short story. His had real mastery on 'Surprise ending', which is considered to be the finest tool to write a good short story. No wonder, Munchi Premchandra was deeply influenced by him. I can feel it as I read Premchand'd short stories. Out of his 270 short stories (sadly he died at the age of 43) almost 75 % stories have universal appeal and though they were written on Normandy life anyone from any part of the world at any era can relate to his work. I have learnt that he wrote 6 novels in his life and that Tolstoy was all praise for his novels. In spite of mu best effort I could not find any English translation of any of his novels. If any reader had any notion about it kindly notify me.

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### Pat says

I am re-reading these slowly and one at a time with breaks between because, as my friend Dominique in book club says, each one is horrible, giving you a jolt and leaving a deliciously bad taste in your mouth at the end. Never think for a moment they are pleasant stories of a time past in France. Think vanity. Think prejudice. Think smugness and just deserts.

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### Realini says

Au Printemps by Guy de Maupassant  
An essay on love, spring and marriage. Oh, I forgot positivity.

This is an homage to...spring. The tale also sings praises for the glorious French Language.

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It crossed my mind that the language is so beautiful, that at times it diminishes the accomplishment of the writer. It seems so easy to assemble together such beautiful words as the French language has aplenty. The reader can't help but like the result. What a pity that I can read French, but dare not to write in the language of Flaubert and Proust. I have indulged in a few romantic messages recently.

When they say "putain va tenculer" in the French songs and films of today, it does not sound like a verse of Verlaine. The grammar is not respected, albeit it seldom has a charm of the street.

In Au Printemps we have a story within a story, even if we are talking about just a few pages. The narrator likes a girl and this is obvious for a man who observes that and interferes to tell his own story. The point being :

- "garde ton Coeur!"

The stranger talks about the dangers of love, how he got involved in a romantic relationship and he came to regret it. I am not giving away the plot and I feel there is no need for a spoiler alert- there is no happy or sad end and this seems to be more of an essay on love and marriage. L'amour is made more dangerous by the presence of spring.

Apart from the message, and the inexistent plot, the most important element of this tale is the language. I read it in French, so I am not sure what it sounds like in another language, but the original is exhilarating. There 's one quote to prove that:

• « Prenez garde à l'amour ! Il est plus dangereux que le rhume, la bronchite, la pleurésie ! Il ne pardonne pas, et fait commettre des bêtises irréparables »

Research made today will prove the negative personage wrong.

Love is not only one of the elements of Positivity, it is the crowning one.

Forgetting about the romantic, literary aspects, we could say that love is a feeling that will boost your life satisfaction, increase life expectancy, improve health and success in life.

On condition that it is a shared feeling, or if it aims to be in the realm of platonic, abstract worship of human beings, love of nature, poetry, music, meditation or animals.

• « En amour, monsieur, nous sommes toujours des naïfs et les femmes des commerçantes. »

The gloomy view of the skeptic in the story is further enhanced with descriptions of his marriage :

- We marry, then she insults you from morning into the evening

- Doesn't understand anything

- Gossips and reveals all the details of the menage

- Tells the neighbor all the secrets of the alcove

- She has grotesque opinions...and more

Which reminds me of Louis CK. I am in the process of watching the award winning series Louie, where some of the opinions expressed seem outrageous and share the sketicism expressed in Au Printemps. Louie even says about the partner in a couple that is falling part :

- After some time, you come to resent your partner's Breathing !

- Are you breathing ?!...OMG ! For fuck's sake...Common man !

I am married and have not come that far, but I get the point. My very presence in the home is often more than she can bear, forget about the breathing.

But, we have about ten kids with fur or feathers and will march on...I guess.

When love is present, it is the ultimate positive feeling. When it is absent, one gives advice on the dangers of it, like the personage of Au Printemps.

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## Patrick Berzai says

Some of the best short stories you'll ever read. My favorite, "The Horla" I read at least once a year.

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## **Tom Lichtenberg says**

I always love reading de Maupassant's stories. There is always something of perfection in nearly every one. The stories are always driven by their characters, which are always genuine. He seemed to see people above and beyond their time or place, their class or gender. He was such a humane writer, even at his most cynical. You get the feeling he loved his stories and the people in them.

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## **Simone Cooper says**

Guy de Maupassant is a master of the short story. Set often in the towns and countryside of wartime France, the stories are painful and revealing without ever being mocking. He understands human questions with poignant depth. The stories are thoroughly enjoyable as well as "classics."

These are important to read for any student of writing as well.

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## **Robert Cohen says**

Monsieur Maupassant, where have you been all my life?

Maupassant has condensed the short story into its very essence: He has crushed the raw coal of language into sparkling diamonds.

The stories are witty, fresh, powerful, tender, magical, unnerving, intelligent, charming, graceful. There are simply not enough adjectives.

Here's just a small cross section of what you get: a story in the vein of O. Henry, whose ending startles the reader; a magical trip in a hot air balloon; a spiritual crisis; a story of the perils of falling in love; a story of unbearable sadness and regret; the anguish on the loss of a spouse; a story of deceit and its tragic consequences; a story with Dear Abby advice for a naïve young lady who lavishes too many kisses on her lover (includes one of the funniest passages in Maupassant); a justification for the abuse of mind altering drugs; a story of bullying that has a happy ending.

Story after story about what loveable fools we humans are, each story a brief but deeply emotional experience. Every class of person is represented, from courtesans and peasants to aristocracy, and everything between. What all the stories have in common is passion, truth, and wisdom. Read "Was It A Dream" to see what would happen if we told the truth to the world, when we mostly cannot even tell the truth to ourselves. Read "In the Wood" for some Maupassant wisdom: "One does not regret anything as long as one does not notice what one has lost".

Maupassant indulged his bawdy and bohemian sides as well. In some cases, his stories are overtly sexual. Courtesans feature prominently in several of his stories. This aspect of his writing made him controversial at first, and later very popular to the point that one publisher had 65 "fake" Maupassant "smutty" stories written in order to enhance sales. Maupassant would have found this quite amusing.

Maupassant wrote some 300 short stories during his sadly truncated life, the total yardage of which far exceeds the length of War and Peace. I didn't feel I could commit to the entire run, so I did some web

snooping to get suggestions of the best of Maupassant. Here's as good a list as any I found:

<http://reviews.rebeccareid.com/storie...>

I have read 20 of his stories to date, and had planned to stop. The problem is I can't let him go. As we speak, I'm back to the beginning reading them in order. Will I read all 300? Who knows?

There are numerous Maupassant snobs one can find on the web who speak disparagingly of the earliest translations, one of which is, of course, the one available for free on Project Gutenberg. The snobs be damned. I read the Gutenberg translation, and was deeply moved by each and every story. I'm willing to admit that there are probably better translations, but I was perfectly content with what I read.

Two important stories seem to have been (accidentally) left out of the Gutenberg version: Mouche (translated as The Fly) and Was It A Dream? You can read these at:

<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/maupa...>

You can actually read all of the stories there, but personally I don't like reading on a PC screen, and I don't have an iPad, so I always go for what's available for my Kindle. Naturally, your mileage may vary.

If my review has not lit your fire, read just one story at the site above: Boule de Suif. It's the first story he published, and it's considered by many to be his masterpiece. If this doesn't make you want to read more, then don't bother having yourself cryonically preserved at death. It would be redundant.

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## **Mandysan says**

Excellent before bedtime short stories by which one gains many a nugget of wisdom!

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## **Howard says**

I had to read The Necklace as a schoolboy and was told by my teacher that Guy de Maupassant was the O Henry of France. This, of course is not true. While he did occasionally employ the twist endings that O Henry was famous for most of his work was much more complex than that. Major themes were the satire of social conventions and class systems, marrying for position and appearance instead of love, loneliness in the midst of masses of people, etc. The stories read like Czarist Russian literature and as such can be depressing but some are also very funny such as The Piece of String in which a man's reputation is destroyed after the simple act of picking up said piece of string. Others are agonizing as is one story about a woman who regrets throwing her dog down a well because she can't afford to keep it. Boule de Suif may be the best example of his work as it encompasses a number of his themes. It was also the inspiration for the John Ford film, Stagecoach.

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## **Mary Emily O'Hara says**

i read and re-read this book all the time.

i first read the story "ball-of-fat" around 2002... from it, i learned about fairness and the vicious nature of the group mentality. a sort of prostitute's rights primer in fiction.  
de maupassant is my favorite moralist. in two or three pages he can turn the human machine inside out and expose its cogs to the light of day. brilliant.

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### **Sharang Swaminathan says**

Guy de Maupassant is without a doubt one of the most enthralling and appalling authors of all time. His works are short and simple but in their simplicity, they make the reader understand human nature better than ever. Some of his stories are considered to be horror stories like "Diary of a Madman". "Diary of Madman" is a truly gruesome tale about a very respected and successful supreme-court judge. As he daily sentence criminals to death, the idea of death and killing him begins to drive him to understand why men kill. The curiosity begins to unhinge him and drives him to kill his servant's pet bird. Enjoyable as it was to him, we wanted to see blood: Human blood. Killing the bird only made him ebullient to kill humans and you can see his internal conflict about whether or not he should kill. The story is short but truly frightening to think that anyone, even a respected judge, could be capable of murder. The philosophical nature of the Judge's curiosity makes the reader curious and ponder along with him. Another appalling short story is "Hair". "Hair" takes the reader along with a man's life leading up to his complete mental breakdown. A lonely and wealthy man buys an antique cupboard and in a secret compartment he finds a bundle of hair that belonged to a woman. His curiosity as to who this woman was leads him to fantasize and he falls in love with this woman (or her hair!). Since its written in first person, you can see the man's mental decline as he gets closer and closer to complete insanity. This story also forces the reader to see human nature from a different point of view.

In my opinion, Guy de Maupassant is a master of not only knowing how to enthrall the readers but also of completely understanding human nature. Subjects that humans are morbidly curious about are the themes that he uses to amaze his readers. I found myself shocked in so many stories not only due to the events occurring in the stories but also due to the fact that the stories make me question my own point-of-view. Guy de Maupassant is capable of completely capturing his readers and truly, I ended up reading many of his stories over and over again. They are just as shocking no matter how many times I read them. However, in my opinion there were some stories that seemed far-fetched (like vendetta) or stretched out too long but even these stories, in the end, had the same shocking effect on me that makes me want to read more and more.

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### **Jose Moch says**

He is the best short story writer of all times. He can deal with man's sexuality at its rawest: "Morocca", "Little Louise Roque" to a life devoted to spirituality and renouncement of life's pleasures: "After", "Love" with all the gamut of human passions and foibles in between. Since my English edition is made up of more than a thousand pages, its reading is an ongoing activity.

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### **Laurie says**

These short stories are fantastic. I could only read a couple at a time because I often had to think about it. It also contains the novelette "Ball of Fat" which is really good. Very readable and I can't believe I have never read Guy de Maupassant before. Available for free download on Kindle. I also downloaded his novel Bel

Ami but haven't read it yet.

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