



Magical Realist Fiction: An Anthology

David Young (Editor), Keith Hollaman (Editor), Franz Kafka, Isaac Babel, Yuri Olesha, Osip Mandelstam, Virginia Woolf, Bruno Schulz, more... Vladimir Nabokov, María Luisa Bombal, Henri Michaux, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Aníbal Monteiro Machado, Jorge Luis Borges, Octavio Paz, John Cheever, Vjekoslav Kaleb, Tommaso Landolfi, Alfonso Reyes, Julio Cortázar, Alejo Carpentier, Nikolai Gogol, Clarice Lispector, Carlos Fuentes, Elizabeth Bishop, Italo Calvino, Gabriel García Márquez, Robert Escarpit, Donald Barthelme, Milan Kundera, Leo Tolstoy, Thomas Mann, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Henry James, Rainer Maria Rilke, D.H. Lawrence ...less

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A treasure trove of unusual fiction spanning authors from Gogol and Kafka through Woolf and Nabokov to Calvino, Garcia Marquez, and Barthelme. A poet's companion, a student's delight, great bedside reading.

Magical Realist Fiction includes:

The nose by Nikolai Gogol
The porcelain doll by Leo Tolstoy
The wardrobe by Thomas Mann
A tale of the cavalry by Hugo von Hofmannsthal
The jolly corner by Henry James
The death of Chamberlain Brigge (excerpt). The hand (excerpt) by Rainer Marie Rilke
Odour of chrysanthemums. The blind man by D.H. Lawrence
A country doctor. The bucket rider by Franz Kafka
The sin of Jesus by Isaac Babel
Lyompa by Yuri Olesha
The Egyptian stamp (excerpt) by Osip Emilievich Mandelstam
The great frost (excerpt) by Virginia Woolf
The street of crocodiles by Bruno Schulz
The visit to the museum by Vladimir Nabokov
New islands by María Luisa Bombal
In the land of magic (excerpt) by Henri Michaux
The old people by William Faulkner
Moon Lake by Eudora Welty
The piano by Aníbal Monteiro Machado
The aleph. The south by Jorge Luis Borges
My life with the wave by Octavio Paz
The enormous radio by John Cheever
The guest by Vjekoslav Kaleb
Gogol's wife by Tommaso Landolfi
Major Aranda's hand by Alfonso Reyes

Axolotl. The night face up by Julio Cortázar
Journey to the seed by Alejo Carpentier
The smallest woman in the world by Clarice Lispector
Aura by Carlos Fuentes
In the village by Elizabeth Bishop
The distance of the moon. Invisible cities (excerpt) by Italo Calvino
A very old man with enormous wings. Blacamán the Good, vendor of miracles by Gabriel García Márquez
Cloud maker by Robert Escarpit
Views of my father weeping by Donald Barthelme
The angels (excerpt) by Milan Kundera

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From Reader Review Magical Realist Fiction: An Anthology for online ebook

Jocelyn Paige says

An amazing overview of stories in the vein of magical realism. I loved many of these stories, and was introduced to a lot of authors unknown to me, Clarice Lispector and Tommaso Landolfi are two of my favorites now.

This is a great anthology, but the concentration is mostly on Latin American and European authors.

My favorites:

“The Smallest Woman in the World” by Clarice Lispector

“Cloud Maker” by Robert Escarpit

“New Islands” by Maria Luisa Bombal

“The Piano” by Anibal Monteiro Machado

“Gogol’s Wife” by Tommaso Landolfi

the gift says

060917: historical collection of magic realism often authors already known. some great read: gogol, tolstoy, mann, rilke, james, kafka, mandelstam... some great unread: schulz, bombal, michaux, welty, paz, cheever, kaleb, landolfi, bishop, escarpit... favourites: 'the hand' by rilke, 'visit to the museum' by nabokov, 'in the land of magic' by michaux, 'the piano' by machado, 'my life with the wave' by paz, 'the enormous radio' by cheever, 'the guest' by kaleb, 'gogol's wife' by landolfi, 'major aranda's hand' by reyes, 'axoltol' by cortazar, 'aura' by fuentes, 'cloud maker' by escarpit, 'the angels' by kundera... more authors to look for!

Elizabeth says

Thoroughly enjoyed this collection of magical realism stories.

Matty says

This would be a fantastic book for a class studying Magical Realism. Not so great for reading on your own. I wanted to have discussions about the stories and talk about the literary significance and what the use of fantastical elements meant.

Jacob Euteneuer says

A solid anthology, but there are lots of clunkers throughout this collection. In particular, the editors go to a

lot of trouble to show that magical realism has existed in Western and Russian lit for a long time, too bad none of it is any good. When they finally get to some of the more contemporary stuff (1945-present), then the selections become stronger.

Rachel says

Read around this book for my class on magical realism. Hit and miss like all anthologies, but a great into to a bum like me.

Tova Dean says

Interesting choices of excerpts and short stories. I was baffled by a few choices because they weren't Magical Realist fiction, and the authors didn't bother to provide what they thought the connection was.

NIKHILDEV.S says

magical realist fiction

AgnesAgnes says

I like Henri Michaux, Octavio Paz, Julio Cortázar and Gabriel García Márquez (Gregory Robassa served the great translation) the most.

Amanda says

So far I am just on the first story which is this odd little number by Gogol about a man, an uppity Russian clerk (is there any other kind), who loses his nose and then realizes that his nose is surrepticiously dating the woman that he loves. At least I think that's what's happening.

Lydia Ship says

A wonderful introduction - if only it were more comprehensive!

Ben says

This anthology uses a wide range of literature to examine different elements of magical realism. The editors

work categorically to question critical assumptions and further delineate tools or palettes with which the various authors are working. I am gradually working through it, and I've already learned some new favorites: Maria Luisa Bombal "New Islands," Henri Michaux!, Thomas Mann "The Wardrobe," and Anibal Monteiro Machado's "The Piano." There's plenty of room given to all the old heavy-hitters: Kafka, Babel, Woolf, Nabokov, Borges, Calvino, Garcia Marquez, (even the older Barthelme!), Kundera.

Among the more conspicuously absent names is Cervantes. The one fellow upon whose shoulders the genre rests (if we consider Apuleius Neo-Platonic and Moses Non-Fiction). I would also enjoy more dialogue between East and West. The Chinese classic Journey to the West or the Japanese gothic tales of Kyoka Izumi come to mind quickest - with the Eastern Russian kosmokrat Iurii Medvedev bridging the gap (if one can be said to exist). Still, here's a good anthology to throw at your mother when she asks: 'Why do you want to be a magical realist?'

B.B. Morgan says

I read this book for class. It's not my cup of tea. The stories were all packed with telling, sodden narration, and the font was extremely hard to read.

Leigh says

the private notes section is annoyingly too small, so I shall have to put my thoughts here . . .

Leo Tolstoy - "The Porcelain Doll" excerpt from a letter, 3/5

Nikolai Gogol - "The Nose" 4/5

Thomas Mann - "The Wardrobe" 3/5

Isaac Babel - "The Sin of Jesus" 3/5

Jorge Luis Borges - "The Aleph" 5/5
"The South" 4/5

Julio Cortazar - "Axolotl" 4/5
"The Night Face Up" 5/5

Bruno Schulz - "The Street of Crocodiles" thee-forsaken, too bloated.

Vladimir Nabokov - "The Visit to the Museum" 4/5

Maria Luisa Bombal - "New Islands" 4/5

Henri Michaux - In the Land of Magic (excerpt=no context) 3/5

Hugo von Hofmannsthal - "A Tale of the Cavalry" thee-forsaken, boring and list-y.

Henry James - "The Jolly Corner" thee-forsaken. too henry james.

Rainer Maria Rilke - "The Death of Chamberlain Brigge" excerpt from The Notebooks of Malte Laurids
Brigge, 4/5

"The Hand" excerpt from same, 4/5

Franz Kafka - "The Country Doctor" 3/5

"The Bucket Rider" 3/5

DH Lawrence - "Odour of Chrysanthemums" 3/5

"The Blind Man" 4/5

but neither story is magical realism, imo.

Yuri Olesha - "Lyompa" 3.5/5

"The cuts on his fingers were covered with golden, appetizing scabs." maybe this is a weird translation, but
thank god for it. brilliant sentence.

Osip Emilievich Mandelstam - The Egyptian Stamp excerpt. thee-forsaken. like being thrown into some
idiotic stranger's circle of gossip.

Virginia Woolf - The Great Frost (excerpt from Orlando), 4/5

Anibal Monteiro Machado - "The Piano" 3/5

Octavio Paz - "The Wave" 4/5

Alfonso Reyes - "Major Aranda's Hand" 3/5

Carlos Fuentes - "Aura" 5/5

Eudora Welty - "Moon Lake" 2/5

John Cheever - "The Enormous Radio" 3/5

Clarice Lispector - "The Smallest Woman in the World" 4/5

Alejo Carpenter - "Journey to the Seed" thee-forsaken

Vjekoslav Kaleb - "The Guest" - 2/5