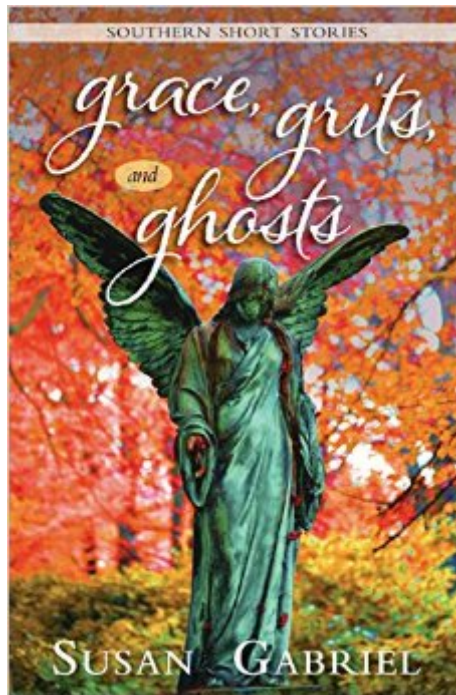


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Grace, Grits And Ghosts: Southern Short Stories



Synopsis

This delightful collection of short stories from acclaimed writer, Susan Gabriel (*The Secret Sense of Wildflower*, a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2012 and #1 bestseller), is rich in humor, as well as mystery and meaning. Whether white or black, living or dead, down home country or upscale urban, Gabriel's characters are quirky, poignant and deep. They include:

- A Gullah woman uses folk magic to cast her latest spell.
- A girl coming-of-age deals with death in 1940s Tennessee.
- A wealthy Savannah matriarch with gastrointestinal issues guards family secrets.
- A good ol' boy observes himself shortly after his death.
- An agoraphobic woman strikes up a unique friendship with the girl across the street.
- A band of seventy-year-olds find healing in a mountain stream.
- And more.

Written in the tradition of Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty, the eight short stories in *Grace, Grits and Ghosts: Southern Short Stories* are all rooted in the southern landscape—from the steamy coast of Georgia, to the current day Atlanta suburbs, to the ancient Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. Pull up a rocker on the front porch, take a sip of your sweet iced tea and lose yourself in these original stories of soulful southerners and their sultry landscape.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These were great short stories. Don't miss the one about the elderly ladies bearing their souls as well as their skin under the summer moon. Every story was like having a movie play in your mind. If you like southern don't miss this one.

Ever since her compelling "The Secret Sense of Wildflower" Susan Gabriel has been one of my favorite authors and her skill as a writer and storyteller is emphasized again in this book. This wonderful collection of stories, each with very different angles, had me hooked from the first page. The characters run the gamut from darkly haunting and mysterious all the way to eccentrically hilarious and that is because they are all born from the same land - the haunting, mysterious, eccentric South. My favorite, if I had to pick, would be the insightful and poignant look into the shuttered life of an agoraphobic woman with its unexpected conclusion. Truthfully though, it's probably a tie with the others, and I can certainly say, that after the two glimpses into the author's new book "Temple Secrets" I'm looking forward to reading it, too!

i just discovered this author and she is rapidly becoming my current favorite. After reading Seeking Sara Summers, and loving that book, I had to read more from this very talented author. I am currently reading these intriguing short stories and am so impressed by her versatility. I am planning to read everything else she has written, including future selections. H. M. Glenn

Delightful! An easy read, but very poignant as the stories unfold a glimpse into the lives of these women who are so shaped by their environment. You feel their pain and recognize their strengths as they struggle to cope and the end of the story leaves you wanting to know more. The syntax of the writing is right on and captures the rhythm of Southern speak. The characters truly emerge through their own words and the descriptive phrasing of the author. If you are from the South, you will recognize these women and if you are not from the South, you will gain a window to a facet of what it means to be Southern!

Gabriel begins her first story in this collection with a favorite line of mine. "Iris Temple had been threatening to die for three decades and most of the people in Savannah who knew her, wanted her to get on with it." This is a writer who knows the South, its characters, and its setting. Gabriel's story not only makes the reader laugh but also brings empathy to a group of women who meet later in life to put "toxic memories" to rest. Meet Scarlett and Rhett, two pampered dogs in a baby stroller, and say farewell to Bluebird Crawford and his wife Maggie. This is a collection of short stories to be read and enjoyed on the back porch with a glass of sweet tea.

The author herself mentions that this could be likened to daily life rather than fiction and I could

easily believe her. The stories she weaves describe a colourful tapestry of life in all its forms from family to loneliness from life and youth to age and death. Little is given away about each character at the start of a story but by the time you reach the end, the rich descriptions paint depth to each one and you don't want to see them go. You want to know more, what happens to those left behind. These are truly deep and thoughtful and yet can still elicit a smile.

This is a delightful collection of short stories. Although joined by Southern roots, each story is unique and travels its own compelling path. Gabriel's characters are intriguing and draw me in right away. The only thing I didn't like about the short story format was having to say good-bye to them so quickly. I highly recommend this book.

Susan Gabriel has a way of telling a story that captures one's imagination. Her descriptions made me feel as though I was actually witnessing what was happening and I became lost in another world. I have already read "The Secret Sense of Wildflower" and "Temple Secrets" and look forward to more of her books. I would recommend her books to anyone. Mary Jane Lewis

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