



The People in the Castle: Selected Strange Stories

Joan Aiken, Lizza Aiken (Introduction)

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Here is the whisper in the night, the dog whose loyalty outlasted death, the creak upstairs, the half-remembered ghost story that won't let you sleep, the sound that raises gooseflesh, the wish you'd checked the lock on the door before dark fell. Here are tales of suspense and the supernatural that will chill, amuse, and exhilarate.

The People in the Castle: Selected Strange Stories Details

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Author : Joan Aiken , Lizza Aiken (Introduction)

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From Reader Review The People in the Castle: Selected Strange Stories for online ebook

Lisa AKA Melanie-Shaun Striker says

3.5 actually. These are indeed strange stories, with a few of them being quite intriguing. Overall, I'm not sure it's a good representation of Joan Aiken's work, but I haven't yet read enough of her books to know. However, I enjoy her writing style enough to say I am going to find out.

Charles Dee Mitchell says

Is it possible to review a book of Joan Aiken short stories without using a variation on the phrase, "endlessly creative"?

Apparently not.

Rachel (Kalanadi) says

I feel like most of these stories had an undercurrent I didn't quite grasp... and that was part of the charm. Favorites: "A Leg Full of Rubies", "A Portable Elephant", "A Room Full of Leaves", "Humblepuppy", "Listening", "The Cold Flame", "The Last Specimen", and "Watkyn, Comma".

Book Riot Community says

Joan Aiken stories handpicked by Small Beer Press and Aiken's daughter and with an introduction by Kelly Link!!! I couldn't read this fast enough! Aiken, probably best known for The Wolves of Willoughby Chase, wrote over 100 books, including 28 story collections. HOLY CATS. These selected stories are wildly inventive, fantastical, and funny, and certainly for fans of Link. I am so delighted this exists.

Tune in to our weekly podcast dedicated to all things new books, All The Books:
<http://bookriot.com/category/all-the-...>

Kirsty says

Oh, Joan. How strange your stories are. How quotable your prose. How unique your worlds. How little the stories make sense, and how little sense seems to matter.

This book isn't everyone's cup of tea. But it's definitely mine.

Nancy says

I loved these short stories! They all felt timeless, like a fairy tale, but yet they somehow felt quite modern at the same time. They all had a slight twist at the end, slightly unnerving, a little unexpected, never truly sinister or suspenseful. But yet they are quite compelling. I can totally see Ms. Aiken becoming one of my new favorite authors.

Sue says

What a great collection of dark stories from Ms. Aiken. She has long been a favorite of mine, and has the same eerie quality to her stories as does Shirley Jackson. You start out on one path of plot, only to suddenly find yourself somewhere else entirely, as the world tilts a bit off kilter and becomes fey and frightening. This is the second volume of collected stories of Ms. Aiken's work published by Small Beer Press. They're beautiful books, both in appearance and content. Highly recommended.

Cmoore says

Such a good story... and the fact that LeVar Burton read it made it all the better...

Shawn Mooney says

I bailed 50% of the way in, because by that point I was hate-reading and that's a bloody waste of time.

Out of the 10.3 stories I read, I only really liked one, "Listening," a quirky, rich tale about art and passion and cats that was a work of art itself. Not one of the others here measured up, and several just angered me the way only unsatisfying fiction can do.

David says

I dare you to read the first page of the first story and not become so charmed you'll want to immediately buy a copy ASAP. Enchanting, Clever and Highly Original.

Pghbekka says

A great collection of Joan Aiken's stories.

Charlotte says

I have the bulk of the old Puffin anthologies, and so wasn't sure how many of the stories would be new to me; happily, the bulk of them were and were very good!

Jen says

Levar Burton Reads podcast offering.

His choices are ALL over the place. This one, I just didn't get. I didn't like any of the characters, all were either weak or, quite literally in the case of the female, a b*tch who couldn't control her temper, who got it from both her mother and her father.

At first I didn't get why the chick was going to purposefully piss off a werewolf who had no control over his temper. (I also didn't get why someone that dangerous was allowed to roam free, even with a caretaker, but whatevs.) Then I realized why and I realized that she was worse than him in her own way. There is strong-willed and then there is iron-fisted.

Didn't like this story at all. 1 star.

Laurie says

I'm embarrassed to say this is my introduction to the work of Joan Aiken and I now know just how much my childhood was lacking. These are delicious, delirious, dangerous, dark tales that spring from the well of dreams and fables, fairy tales and deeply buried fears. Checked this out from the local library and will be purchasing for my home library; that just how good these stores are.

Alison C says

This review was written for LibraryThing Early Reviewers.

"The People in the Castle" is a collection of previously published short stories by Joan Aiken, dating between 1955 and 1990. The stories range from fantasy to horror to science fiction, from whimsical ("A Room Full of Leaves," "Humblepuppy") to scary ("The Cold Flame") to mythology-based ("The Lame King") to very funny indeed ("A Portable Elephant") - in short, an absolutely delightful collection of imaginative and inventive tales from a woman primarily known today as the author of the children's novel "The Wolves of Willoughby Chase." Small Beer Press, in its wisdom, put together this collection and one hopes that this volume will introduce new generations to this author and her beautiful writing; I know I feel like I've been introduced to a new friend in reading these gems. Very highly recommended!
