



The Man Who Robbed His Own Post Office: The Year of Short Stories – January

Jeffrey Archer

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The Man Who Robbed His Own Post Office is part of The Year of Short Stories and is one of a limited number of digital shorts released to celebrate the publication of Jeffrey Archer's magnificent seventh short-story collection, Tell Tale.

Taken from Cat O' Nine Tales, Jeffrey Archer's fifth collection of short stories, The Man Who Robbed His Own Post Office is an irresistible, witty and captivating short read.

Mr and Mrs Haskins are upstanding members of a seaside town, where they rose from their ordinary beginnings to make a huge success of their local fish-and-chip shop. From there it only got better as they took the post office to new levels of prosperity. But just as they start to plan how they will enjoy the fruits of their labour the Haskins fall victim to the unscrupulous directors at the Post Office headquarters. Determined to ensure they receive what is rightfully theirs, they take drastic action . . .

Be sure to look out for more from The Year of Short Stories collection, including One Man's Meat and The Endgame.

The Man Who Robbed His Own Post Office: The Year of Short Stories – January Details

Date : Published January 1st 2018 by Pan

ISBN :

Author : Jeffrey Archer

Format : Kindle Edition 44 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Man Who Robbed His Own Post Office: The Year of Short Stories – January for online ebook

Mike Briley says

A clever and amusing tale. I wonder where Jeffery Archer gets his ideas from!

Chaitra Chowdhary says

I think the more he increases the number of pages for his "short stories" the more technical it becomes. I'm not a fan of numbers or properties but I guess I feel why the older couple have the need to cheat everyone off for robbing their own post office anyway i didn't read the last 5 pages so I care a bit too less to have second thoughts about it. This story interested me the least and I didn't wanna go through the entire story to know why, what and how they did it

Juhi Bansal says

Confusion.. the only word that comes to my mind after reading this one - well not read it entirely :P ...completed 60% of it and then left it.

The only thing described nicely was how Mr and Mrs. Haskins get married... however apart from that, there is nothing but a lot of words just put together leading to a puzzle which isn't told the right way.

Being a Jeffrey Archer fan ... this was a huge disappointment.

Shabana Mukhtar says

Review of The Man Who Robbed His Own Post Office: The Year of Short Stories – January (Kindle Edition)

I guess the rating says it all.

I never believed I will NOT enjoy something that is written by our brilliant Jeffery Archer. The title says quite enough. The story spans over several year. A married couple trying to avenge a decision by municipal corporation. It sounds a little bit like 'Not a penny more, not a penny less'; but obviously not as entertaining.

Matt says

Master storyteller Lord Jeffrey Archer has chosen to please his fans with a new venture; a short story released each month. Those familiar with Archer's work will know that he can not only spin long and

involved pieces, but also the short story that compacts adventure into a handful of pages. January brings us this interesting story about Chris and Sue Haskins, accused of stealing a large sum of money from the post office they own. While meeting in primary school, Chris and Sue found themselves in different circles and not showing much interest in one another. However, a few chance encounters paved the way to a wonderful relationship and eventual marriage. Starting with modest means, the Haskins' sought to begin a business venture that could not fail. Working themselves to the bone, Chris and Sue sought to make more money than their modest fish and chip shop could produce. Working to purchase a busy post office, Chris and Sue continue to work hard and solidify strong relationships with their patrons. A letter from the Central Office governing post offices arrives with some less than pleasant news. Unsure what they will do, Chris and Sue begin to craft a plan that will work to benefit them and ensure they have a lovely nest egg. Thus begins a series of illegal events that will pad their bank accounts, as long as they are not caught. In a story that comes full circle, the Haskins' soon find themselves before Mr. Justice Gray, baffled at the series of events that brought them to his court. Perfect for those who need a short break from their hectic lives, Archer treats readers to this wonderful short story that launches a year's worth of intriguing pieces.

I have long been a fan of Lord Archer and his writing. While some propose to dust off the soap box and bemoan his legal issues, this has not diminished Archer's ability to create powerful pieces that educate and entertain in short order. Commencing a short story collection not only allows Archer to continue honing his skills, but also gives readers something to enjoy when they have a little free time. In this piece, Archer focuses much of his attention on building up the backstory of Chris and Sue Haskins. Filling in just the right amount of backstory to provide context, Archer spins a story full of intrigue and fast-paced action. That this upstanding couple could turn to a set of criminal acts almost seems justified in the way Archer depicts it. With three decent length chapters, Archer keeps the narrative flowing such that the reader cannot stop reading until they have reached the final page, where even then Archer gracefully lets the reader down easily. I am so pleased to have come across this collection and will review each storey based on its own merits, binging with the five before me to catch up, before awaiting each instalment on a monthly basis thereafter.

Kudos, Lord Archer, for a masterful new story collection. How you find so many effective ideas that produce high quality publications I will never know.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Diwakar Grandhi says

The book was decent but there weren't any astonishing plot twists. The writing was good and it was certainly a good story to read in a short period. The book tell us about a couple who faced their own hardships and were downright honest in everything they did. However there comes a time when they were tested as their hard earned wealth was at stake. The story then moves on to what decisions they took at this crucial juncture and how they managed to handle the situation.

Col says

Synopsis/blurb...

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Mr and Mrs Haskins are upstanding members of a seaside town, where they rose from their ordinary beginnings to make a huge success of their local fish-and-chip shop. From there it only got better as they took the post office to new levels of prosperity. But just they start to plan how they will enjoy the fruits of their labour the Haskins fall victim to the unscrupulous directors at the Post Office headquarters. Determined to ensure they receive what is rightfully theirs, they take drastic action . .

My take...

Not an author I would usually read but I was out and about shopping with the family and CBA wandering around one particular shop so tried to access something to read through my phone. Not especially fancying any of the free bodice rippers on iBooks this seemed the most likely option for a story I might enjoy.

And I did. We have a fairly straightforward narrative about a couple of kids, fairly oblivious to each other at school, reconnecting through National Service, starting a courtship - I think that's what they called it in the late 50s, marrying and embarking on a series of jobs, working hard and saving to improve their lot. Our couple are of a different generation to today's - no need for instant gratification - work hard and save and go without in between, until the business loan is paid off and then have a holiday.

These values serve them in good stead, as they graduate from bus conductor and fish and chip shop assistant, to owning the fish and chip shop, to running a profitable post office franchise. Their standing in the local community soars - prominent positions in the Rotary Club and the Mother's Union. They have an adult daughter now and a dog and happily make plans for their future retirement. Until they get shafted by the decision makers at the post office, who having knowingly sold them the franchise for a class A post office, downgrade theirs to that of a lower ranking and leave them high and dry, with no hope for regaining their investment.

Our worm turns and the Haskins try and take back what they feel is theirs.

Interesting story, not too many twists, but I enjoyed seeing how it was all going to play out. We have the court case fairly early on in the tale, where the Haskins are found guilty of robbery, so Archer then sets up how we arrived at this point with a subsequent update on the outcome for the Haskins.

Overall 4 from 5.

I'm not rushing to read Archer again, but I wouldn't rule it out in a tight pinch with nothing else to hand. I may have read him about 30 years ago on a beach holiday, when similar circumstances dictated and I was scratching around for a book.

Jeffrey Archer has written many bestsellers and has a somewhat colourful past as a prominent Conservative politician during the 70s and 80s. Financial ruin, court cases, imprisoned for perjury, controversial charity work, Member of the House of Lords, successful writing career. Interesting man with a definite bounce-back factor.

Read in January, 2018

Published - 2007

Page count - 42

Source - iBooks (then Amazon to finish)

Format - phone and Kindle

<https://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2018/0...>

Cheryl says

This is a 3.5 star read.

An interesting (long) short story and exceptionally well written, however it wasn't what I was expecting it to be.

Clive Gerrard says

A rather sad story of two hard working people who lose all their savings due to the indifference of a large company, in this case - the Post Office. A sympathetically written story but it doesn't really take off for me ... This is something of a shame, as the basic premise showed potential but the ending lacked that twist that makes a good short story into a great one. It is however, well written and eminently readable.

Not great but not bad either

Ankit Saxena says

Gripping..

It has started steadily and ended the same. But there's a difference. Started with flash and ended disappointingly. However, in-between its gripping. It holds me but the end was not quite as expected. I started reading Jefferey Archer with his short stories and find him having mastered in story-telling. This is one of his two short stories I read, the other one is The Wasted Hour. Both are Magical. His style of writing is like of the early 20th and mid & late 19th Century writers, amazing and mesmerizing.

It would have been 5.0/5.0; but because of its end
For me its 4.0/5.0

Sanika says

It was an amazing short read.

Shirley Revill says

A short story from the year of short stories by Jeffrey Archer that I really enjoyed. Brilliant storyline and would love to see this made into a much longer story as I was really sorry when I turned the last page. Really entertaining and I will be reading more from this author in the future.

Coco.V says

?FREE on Amazon & on iBooks today (7/30/2018)!?

Gary says

Another excellent tale by author Jeffrey Archer, one of the masters of short stories. In this story an average couple, Mr and Mrs Haskins, make a success by running a Fish and Chip shop before moving on to take over a Post Office and turning that venture into a thriving business. But when they fall victims to the Post Office Directors they become determined to ensure that they receive what they believe to be rightfully theirs. Not really a mystery but well written and enjoyable.

Vinay Leo says

Review at A Bookworm's Musing

Enjoyed the story, though it doesn't have many twists, and is straightforward. I like these ten minute reads which are perfect to read between longer novels without having to pick up the larger collection of short stories. That being said, I do have the book Cat O' Nine Tales, so I might give it a go sometime this year.
