



Up All Night: A Short Story Collection

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A brush with the supernatural? A rock concert? A reunion? A poolside revelation? The need to know what's up? The confessions of a friend? The dream of escape? A sick pet? An English assignment? The rear-window view of a murder next door? The search for the mother you never met? What keeps you up all night?

This remarkable collection of award-winning and bestselling authors is thought provoking, insightful, heartfelt, and powerful.

Up All Night: A Short Story Collection Details

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From Reader Review Up All Night: A Short Story Collection for online ebook

ChrisVigilante says

Phase Two and The Vulnerable Hours were my favorites. Some of the stories were interesting but had endings that felt flat really. So my overall rating for the collection remains a three.

Audrey says

3.5 Stars

This was a fun little collection that I read in half a day. I really loved seeing the different author's interpretations of the same prompt (being up all night). Here are my individual reviews:

Phase 2 -- 2.5 stars

Starting off not so strong, Phase 2 was my least favorite in this collection. There was a lack of characterization, I kept thinking that the main character Lara was a boy and then becoming jarred mentally when having to picture her as a girl all over again, and I really wasn't buying that computer hacking (or whatever that was) that the younger sibling did near the end. Though it carries a nice sentiment I just couldn't relate to the story, so I wasn't really invested in the plot.

Not Just for Breakfast Anymore -- 4 stars

This was by far my favorite story of the bunch. Not Just for Breakfast Anymore was my first Libba Bray story and it has me raring to read something bigger from her. For a short story she really nailed her characters, having them fully developed and each with their own unique personalities and quirks. This book is funny and relatable, while also smoothly breaching some heavy topics. I felt drawn into this story the whole time I was reading, and I'm still thinking about it now, a few hours later. Really good!

The Vulnerable Hours -- 4 stars

Classic magical, emotional, empathetic David Levithan here. I really liked this story with its two alternating POVs and its tough love about truth, and how our truths lead to our happiness. A very lovely and deep short story!

Orange Alert -- 3 stars

What I liked the most about this story was the badass main character (I forgot her name already, oops!). This story had the most subtle and really "accidental" instance of staying up all night, but it was also probably the most realistic. I liked the story and how the mc deals with her issues, but it just didn't speak to me like the previous two stories did.

Superman is Dead -- 3 stars

While I was reading this one it initially came across as a 3.5 or 4 star read, but after finishing it I really only feel a 3. I liked Brian's story for his English assignment and his conversations with Nick, but otherwise Superman is Dead was a little bit boring. However I am biased because I think that mice for pets are disgusting (even more so now having learned about their foot musk), and five-year-old boys are kind of annoying. This said, the ending still made me feel some tingle of emotion in my cold, cold heart--colder than

Superman's dead carcass--, so that counts for something.

The Motherless One -- 4 stars

This last story was a funny and short little comic which I really enjoyed. The art style was nice, and while it was a very brief comic story, the end really carried some truth and feeling. It wrapped up this collection in an easy-going yet powerful light.

Popsugar 2018 Reading Challenge: a book with your favorite color in the title (Orange Alert)

Goodreads Summer Reading Challenge 2018: Won't Be Long: a collection of short stories or essays

Jessica says

(Short Stories) A few of these stories were really well written. The types of stories were very diverse. I think compilations like this are a great way to find authors you enjoy and want to read more of. There is something tantalizing to get complete resolution with a quick read of just a few pages.

Cherrie says

Short reads for fellow night owls! Great compilation of short stories about identity, authenticity, and inner strength. Even though this compilation is written for teens, even adults have a thing or two to take away. Love that Gene Yang's comic strip closes the entire book.

Linda Dexheimer says

Linda Dexheimer
Short Stories.

These were some fun and interesting stories with an interesting theme: what keeps the characters up all night. The stories have a variety of interesting themes from science fiction to contemporary realistic fiction. Some of the stories make you laugh and others make you cry but overall, great stories that will keep most young readers interested.

Sarika Patkotwar says

*This review was initially published on The Readdicts Book Blog. For more reviews, go [here](#).

Up All Night is a collection of six very unique and very interesting short stories, written by six very brilliant authors. In the collection, there are: *Phase 2* by Peter Abrahams, *Not Just for Breakfast Anymore* by Libba Bray, *The Vulnerable Hours* by David Levithan (the reason why I decided to read the book in the first place), *Orange Alert* by Patricia McCormick, *Superman is Dead* by Sarah Weeks and *The Motherless One* by Gene Luen Yang (which is more of an illustration with dialogues, really). Aside from David Levithan, all the

authors were new to me and I was pleasantly surprised at how much I relished both their story-telling and writing.

The book begins with a lovely introduction by publisher Laura Geringer, who has, very meticulously and poignantly, summarised every story in barely a line and it manages to both give a slight glimpse into the story and pique the reader's interest. I never really bother writing about introductions and all, but this one really stuck with me because it was done so well that I couldn't not say something about it. Besides, Geringer has published a really, really nice book with stories that are creative, touching and thought-provoking.

Coming to the stories, like I mentioned before they were all very well written and told. Some of my favourites are basically all of them, expect *Not Just for Breakfast Anymore* and *The Motherless One*, because while the former was very long as compared to the rest and slightly incomprehensible as well, the latter was fun to read, but a narrative would've been much better. Keeping that aside, however, the collection was varied and covered up a bunch of stuff.

Phase 2, *The Vulnerable Hours* (no surprise there!), *Orange Alert* and *Superman is Dead* were stories that I fell in love with because of how unique and splendid they were. These stories took up very daily and mundane events and turned them into something so extraordinary and special that it was difficult not to admire and appreciate them. I would love to summarise every story, but with short stories, there's always the fear of letting everything out and I'm no Laura Gringer to give perfect and on-point summaries.

Overall, I would highly, highly recommend this collection because it's easy to read and yet managed to leave a heavy impact on the readers because of the way in which every story is portrayed.

Joanne says

Some fun short stories by various authors - theme of staying up all night. My favorite was *Agent Orange*, about a girl whose stepfather is starting to make sexual overtures to her. Her reaction is strong and powerful.

Brandi says

Phase 2 by Peter Abrahams 4 Stars

This was such a sad and sweet tale of a father lost in combat.

Not Just for Breakfast Anymore by Libba Bray 2.5 stars

I'm usually a fan of Libba Bray, but there were some problematic racist jokes and while the story was enjoyable, there were lots of references I doubt the target audience (teens) would get. The story is set during the 80s and even I couldn't pick up on all the references.

The Vulnerable Hours by David Levithan 5 Stars

Magical story of opening up and speaking your truth from Levithan.

Orange Alert by Patricia McCormick 5 Stars

Gotta love a strong female protagonist that sticks it to a misogynistic pedophile.

Superman is Dead by Sarah Weeks 4 Stars

Excellent story within a story, but why did poor Superman have to die? Trigger Warning - dead pets

The Motherless One by Gene Luen Yang 3 stars

I'm sure there was supposed to be some deeper meaning but it didn't really resonate with me.

Rebecca McNutt says

Up All Night's stories are all different, but they all have one thing in common - they're all absolutely amazing and really fun to read! :)

Luisa says

I guess I expected more from this book, but I still enjoy the concept. I totally fell in love with *The Vulnerable Hours* (because David Levithan sz). *Orange Alert*, by Patricia McCormick, and *Superman is Dead*, by Sarah Weeks, are also pretty good.

Airiz C says

Heaps upon heaps of schoolwork. Thesis project. A meteor shower as announced in the evening news. A phone call from a friend. Whatever it may be, there must be something that kept you up all night at least once in your life, a night that made you feel as if you're drifting betwixt wakefulness and sleep, a night that shot a different kind of energy up your veins and made you witness how it melted into sunrise, how the city lifts its eyelids again...

This is the theme of the Lara Geringer anthology *Up All Night*, featuring six best-selling young adult authors and their bite-sized tales about a single night that mattered in the lives of their characters. Although not everyone may be successful in leaving memorable dents on the hearts of the readers, all of them are able to convey the very feeling—the high spirits—that only defying a human's diurnal body clock could give.

For me, the story that took the cake is Libba Bray's "Not Just for Breakfast Anymore," which is about a group of girls attending a rock concert in Dallas in the 1980's. Following the group's attempts to hang out with the Cheap Trick is fun, but what I enjoyed the most is the exploration of Maggie's—the main character's—big secret: her father is homosexual, and she is trying to hide it from her friends. Maggie's parents have divorced after her dad's revelation. After being too drunk and wasted to drive themselves home, the group doesn't have any closer place to stay except Maggie's dad's apartment (whom her father is now sharing with his lover). This is not an extremely emotional ride, but that's what's ironic about it: its subtlety cuts like a knife. In only a few pages I learned to love Maggie. Her constant thoughts about her father and homosexuality are cleverly interspersed with the group's stereotypical antics.

My second favorite is Sarah Weeks' "Superman is Dead", which is one tangle of a tale about a death of a pet, divorce of parents, birth of a stepbrother, and an English assignment that becomes the main character's symbolic pool of kept emotions as he deals with his inner demons. I also loved David Levithan's "The Vulnerable Hours," an angstly albeit thought-provoking tale that tackles the usual answers to the question

“what’s up?”

Those are my top three. The others are pretty alright: Peter Abrahams’ “Phase Two” reminds me of R.L. Stine’s stories and Patricia McCormick’s “Orange Alert” is a good tale of reversal of powers (though I expected more from the girl protagonist). I didn’t really enjoy Gene Luen Yang’s graphic novel-style story though. It seems too short to give off a lasting effect.

Over all this is a good read.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jennifer Rummel for TeensReadToo.com

Six stories relate to the darkness and the wonder of staying up all night.

Libba Bray writes about four best friends going to a concert and looking for the band's after party. When they need a place to crash, they spend the night at one girl's father's new apartment, almost exposing a huge family secret.

The family in Peter Abraham's story attempt to move on after the death of a loved one, but can they reach him from beyond the grave before they let go?

David Levithan explores one girl's search to let go of social politeness and to find herself in the darkness of the night.

These six stories (the remaining written by Patricia McCormick, Sarah Weeks, and Gene Luen Yang) will make readers think of the nighttime and all of the secrets and power it possesses.

Read these tales after dark.

Mr. Cool says

I am usually a sucker for short story comps. But for some reason, this one, not so much.

When I read the theme 'what keeps you up at night' I expected mysteries, shock endings, thought provoking, and original pieces. I liked the short comic (by the author of American-Born Chinese) the most because it captured a specific feeling perfectly that indeed, keeps us up at night.

'Orange Alert' dealt with a girl with a sexually harassing step-father, her nighttime rides, and control in one's life. The ending surprised me, and made me think. Very original and well done.

Then there was 'The Night of Knights,' which told us the story of a somewhat bratty girl getting lost in the woods. Overall it was fairly interesting, but the ending made next to no sense and when you look back on it. Well-written, but it didn't really go anywhere.

Similarly, 'Not Just For Breakfast Anymore' had a couple of teenage girls get drunk, high, flirt with weird old Asian men, and basically do what sleep-deprived teenage girls do. The ending, again, didn't make sense to me, but at least it understood the theme of 'staying up all night.'

'Phase two' dealt with the death of a loved one, seances, and scams. Predictable, unrealistic, and just mediocre.

And finally, 'The Vulnerable Hours' described a city-wide event that can only be described as 'people being deep and open with each other.' At least, that's the best I could come up with because it's not really clear what happened here. Vague and pretentious.

All in all, I would only give the short comic 5 stars. Everything else was about a 2-3, hence my average rating. Not THAT bad, but I expect better.

Anna Bowling says

I picked up this anthology for the David Levithan entry, "The Vulnerable Hours," and, as always, Mr. Levithan more than delivered, with the story of what happens when one boy decides not to take the polite answer to "what's up?" and one girl makes the amazing discovery that she doesn't have to be where she doesn't want to be. . The other authors were new to me, each with a distinctive voice, each presenting a poignant slice of life, themed around characters who are awake while the rest of the world is not.

Libba Bray takes us to 1980, with four girls determined to meet Cheap Trick, but, underneath the surface, one makes a more substantial connection with her recently divorced father.

"Orange Alert," by Patricia McCormick, brings us into the life of a young girl teaching herself independence, while "Phase 2," by Peter Abraham follows the family of a fallen soldier through their transition into life after loss.

"Superman is Dead," by Sarah Weeks, deals with pet death, a personal trigger for me, so I do not feel qualified to comment on this one, and I am not familiar with the monkey character from Gene Yuen's *American Born Chinese*, so I may not have been able to fully appreciate "The Motherless One."

Kelly Moore says

Read:

Not Just for Breakfast Anymore by Libba Bray- These stories are longer than the other collections I've been looking through. This story was slightly excruciating, but in the end I liked it. It's 1980 in Texas, and four girls act stupid, go to a concert, get high and drunk, and think they can sneak into the hotel where the band is staying to hang out with the famous guys. It's all so stupid that you feel embarrassed for the girls, but it's kind of funny and believable too. The sub-plot is the interesting part. One of the girls has recently discovered that her dad is gay, and he and her mother got divorced. Her friends don't know that he's gay, and she's trying to hide it from them. The story is about people not being who they are pretending to be, and although the theme is heavy-handed, I really liked the main character and how the story ended up.

Orange Alert by Patricia McCormick - When I saw the title of this one, I thought of her novel, Purple Heart, and hoped it was another great story about the Iraq War. It turned out to be totally different. It's the story of a teenage girl who's living with her mother and her mom's new husband, who is a miserable, creepy guy that threatens the girl sexually when her mom isn't around. Just when I was bracing myself for something horrible to happen, the girl did something to threaten him back. I would have preferred to see her tell her mom and have her mom take her away, but what the girl decides to do in the meantime is pretty great.

The Motherless One by Gene Luan Yang - In this graphic-novel-style short story, a monkey realizes he wasn't birthed by a monkey, but sprang into existence on top of a mountain. He goes looking for meaning to his existence.
