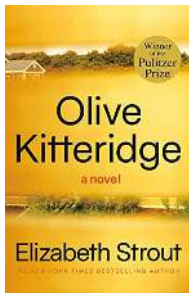


# Short Story Collections:

## Read It Like a Novel



### *Olive Kitteridge*—Elizabeth Strout

Olive, a retired schoolteacher, deplores the changes in her little town and doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her: a lounge musician haunted by a past romance; a former student who has lost the will to live; Olive's own adult child, who feels tyrannized by her irrational sensitivities; and her husband, Henry, who finds his loyalty to his marriage both a blessing and a curse.

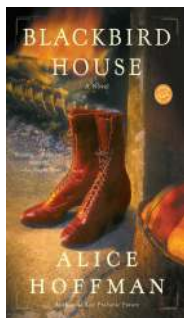
FIC STR



### *Olive, Again*—Elizabeth Strout

The iconic Olive struggles to understand not only her own life but also the lives of those around her. Whether with a teenager coming to terms with the loss of her father, a young woman about to give birth during a hilariously inopportune moment, a nurse who confesses a secret high school crush, or a lawyer who struggles with an inheritance, the unforgettable Olive will continue to startle us, to move us, and to inspire us.

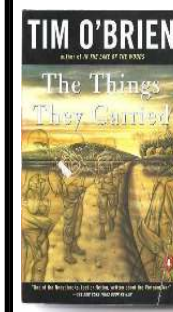
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### *Blackbird House*—Alice Hoffman

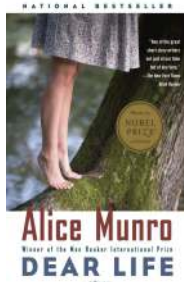
These interconnected narratives are as intelligent as they are haunting, as luminous as they are unusual. Inside Blackbird House more than a dozen men and women learn how love transforms us and how it is the one lasting element in our lives. The past both dissipates and remains contained inside the rooms of Blackbird House, where there are terrible secrets, inspired beauty, and, above all else, a spirit of coming home.

FIC HOF



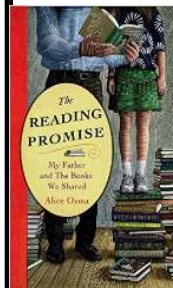
### *The Things They Carried*—Tim O'Brien

O'Brien's unique artistic vision is demonstrated in an arc of fictional episodes, taking place in the childhoods of its characters, in the jungles of Vietnam and back home in America two decades later.



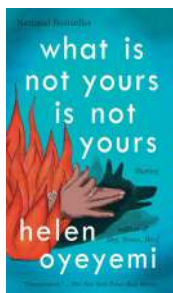
### *Dear Life*—Alice Munro

Suffused with Munro's clarity of vision and her unparalleled gift for storytelling, these tales about departures and beginnings, accidents and dangers, and outgoings and homecomings both imagined and real, paint a radiant, indelible portrait of how strange, perilous, and extraordinary ordinary life can be.



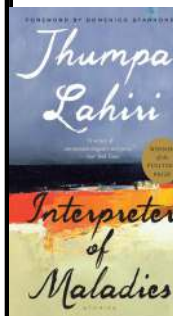
### *The Reading Promise*—Alice Ozma

When Alice Ozma was in 4th grade, she and her father decided to see if he could read aloud to her for 100 consecutive nights. On the hundredth night, they shared pancakes to celebrate, but it soon became evident that neither wanted to let go of their storytelling ritual. So they decided to continue what they called "The Streak." Alice's father read aloud to her every night without fail until the day she left for college.



### *What is Not Yours is Not Yours*—Helen Oyeyemi

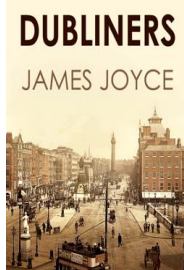
The key to a house, the key to a heart, the key to a secret—not only unlock elements of characters' lives, they promise further labyrinths on the other side. In "Books and Roses," one special key opens a library, a garden, and clues to at least two lovers' fates. "Sorry Doesn't Sweeten Her Tea" involves a "house of locks," where doors can be closed only with a key—with surprising, unobservable developments. Is a key a gate, a gift, or an invitation?



### *Interpreters of Maladies*—Jhumpa Lahiri

Navigating between the Indian traditions they've inherited and the baffling new world, characters seek love beyond the barriers of culture and generations. In "A Temporary Matter," a young Indian-American couple faces the heartbreak of a stillborn birth while their Boston neighborhood copes with a nightly blackout. In the title story, an interpreter guides an American family through the India of their ancestors and hears an astonishing confession.

FIC LAH



### *Dubliners*—James Joyce

This work of art reflects life in Ireland at the turn of the last century, and by rejecting euphemism, reveals to the Irish their unromantic realities. Each of the 15 stories offers glimpses into the lives of ordinary Dubliners, and collectively they paint a portrait of a nation.

FIC JOY



### *Drown*—Junot Díaz

With ten stories that move from the barrios of the Dominican Republic to the struggling urban communities of New Jersey, Díaz's work is unflinching and strong, and these stories crackle with an electric sense of discovery. Díaz evokes a world in which fathers are gone, mothers fight with grim determination for their families and themselves, and the next generation inherits the casual cruelty, devastating ambivalence, and knowing humor of lives circumscribed by poverty and uncertainty.