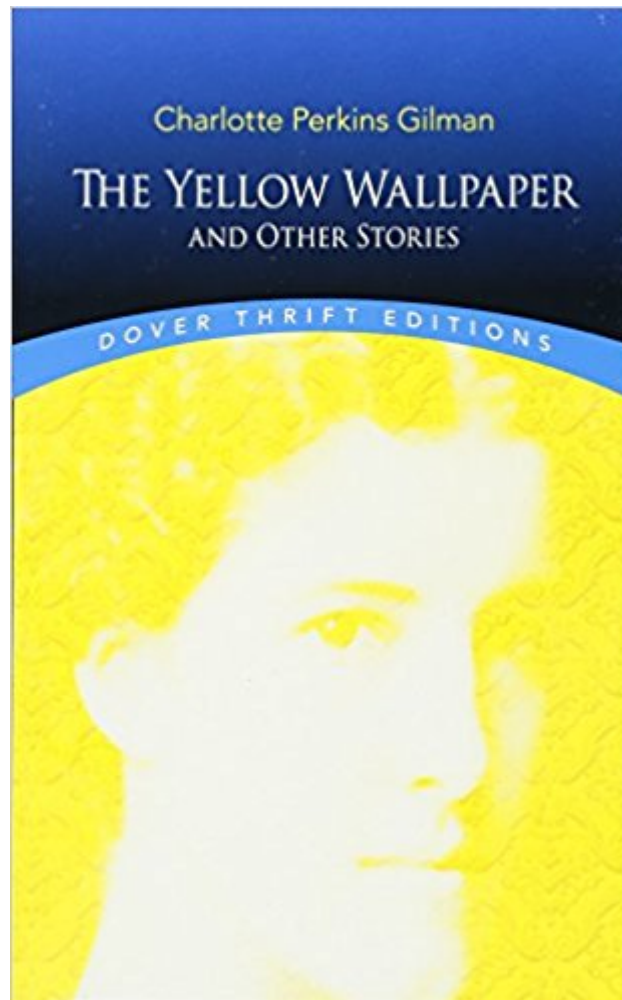




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The Yellow Wallpaper And Other Stories (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Best known for the 1892 title story of this collection, a harrowing tale of a woman's descent into madness, Charlotte Perkins Gilman wrote more than 200 other short stories. Seven of her finest are reprinted here. Written from a feminist perspective, often focusing on the inferior status accorded to women by society, the tales include "Turned," an ironic story with a startling twist, in which a husband seduces and impregnates a naïve servant; "Cottagette," concerning the romance of a young artist and a man who's apparently too good to be true; "Mr. Peebles' Heart," a liberating tale of a fiftyish shopkeeper whose sister-in-law, a doctor, persuades him to take a solo trip to Europe, with revivifying results; "The Yellow Wallpaper"; and three other outstanding stories. These charming tales are not only highly readable and full of humor and invention, but also offer ample food for thought about the social, economic, and personal relationship of men and women and how they might be improved.

Book Information

Paperback: 70 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Unabridged edition (1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486298574

ISBN-13: 978-0486298573

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 100 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #14,299 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gender Studies #76 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics #82 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory

Customer Reviews

Best known for the 1892 title story of this collection, a harrowing tale of a woman's descent into madness, Charlotte Perkins Gilman wrote more than 200 other short stories. Seven of her finest are reprinted here. Written from a feminist perspective, often focusing on the inferior status accorded to women by society, the tales include "Turned," an ironic story with a startling twist, in which a husband seduces and impregnates a naïve servant; "Cottagette," concerning the romance of a young artist and a man who's apparently too good to be true; "Mr. Peebles' Heart," a liberating tale of a fiftyish shopkeeper whose sister-in-law, a doctor, persuades him to take a solo trip to Europe,

with revivifying results; "The Yellow Wallpaper

I had originally meant to purchase a book with several short stories by Gilman, but I guess I must've accidentally purchased this one instead. Regardless of my mishap, I was still pleased to re-read this wonderful short story. It's very sad and very fascinating. The main character is a woman suffering from postpartum depression, her husband is a doctor and (due to the beliefs of the time) makes all the wrong decisions in concern to her health. He may very well have loved her but oppressed her to the point of insanity. Her own opinions and desires were of no importance, as per usual for this era. I can see how every one is interpreting this as a feminist story, however, I read it more from a psychological stand point. I don't blame the brother or the husband, I'm sure they genuinely thought they were administering the best form of medical help.

Two years or so before I had the pleasure of reading "The Yellow Wallpaper" for the first time. High school is not the optimal place to read stories as different as this short story because most classmates do not appreciate the art of literary writing, but most importantly the teacher you have can make or break the experience of reading said pieces. It was no surprise at all that after finishing my second read through, I found I had missed a lot of jewels in this little trove. This short story follows a woman's mental leaps between relating what's going in her life (she had a baby, her husband is a doctor, etc.) and her strong feelings against the yellow wallpaper in her and her husband's room. Mrs. Gilman's notes about the story later revealed that the reason the main protagonist sounded mentally ill but not melodramatically so was because the author herself went through the "rest cure", which nearly drove her into a mental breakdown before she decided to ignore the guidance of her doctor and return to work. There are many themes you can glean from the text. It can 1) be an inside look at how women were treated pre-suffrage, 2) be used as honest proof that postpartum depression is and has been a real struggle mothers have had to face for centuries, or 3) be a little Gothic horror story that explores what happens in the mind of the mentally ill. Below are two of my favorite quotes because they're just so chilling in depth: "I don't like to LOOK out of the windows even--there are so many of those creeping women, and they creep so fast. I wonder if they all come out of that wall-paper as I did?" (loc. 378). "I've got out at last in spite of you and Jane. And I've pulled off most of the paper, so you can't put me back!" (loc. 388). Overall, I like to look at it as both a haunting Gothic piece of fiction and as an inside look of how it feels to slowly go mad. The fact that the narrator started believing there was a woman locked in behind the bars of the paper could very well be her own mind's way making sense of the cage holding it back. It's also

moving that at the end the narrator say she feels most at home around the wallpaper she'd spited through the majority of her entries. This massive little story just goes to show how complex our minds truly are, and the dangers that unfold when a mind is oppressed. I highly recommend purchasing an ebook version so as to take plenty of notes while reading.

A great book for future and current psychologists. Gets into the mind of the character in effective and shocking ways.

After enjoying *Herland* by this early feminist, I was anxious to read more. I bought a softcover edition which at 70 pages contains seven short stories written in the early 1900s. These stories depict very different times for women who were often subject to the decisions made by the men in their lives. "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a chilling short story that shows the consequences of this type of situation. All the stories are very well written and enjoyable. It's hard to imagine such a repressive time. It's sad what so many women had to endure and I'm very grateful for early feminists such as Charlotte Perkins Gilman who dared to voice her opinions in a public way. These stories depict a part of our history and the women in them are tragic and brave and clever. I highly recommend this collection of short stories.~

very interesting

Lanzetta offers an exploration of the "Via Feminina" as the way to find spiritual release from the suppressions ("soul wounds") of male domination. Our "sin" is not pride, as has often been identified, but rather self-negation. Lanzetta writes with spiritual depth and authentic authority from personal encounters along her own journey.

Exactly as shown

I truly enjoyed these short stories, which cause a deep reflection upon the enlightenment experienced by the characters. And how I might react in turn...

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