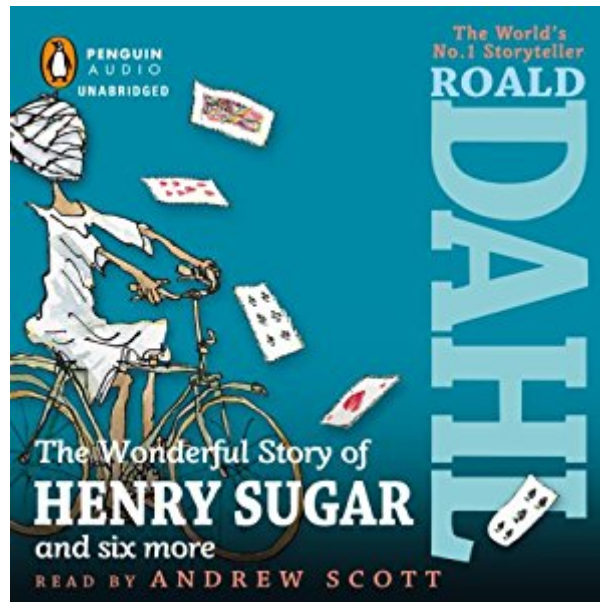


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The Wonderful Story Of Henry Sugar



Synopsis

Seven superb stories, from the world's number-one storyteller Meet the boy who can talk to animals and the man who can see with his eyes closed. And find out about the treasure buried deep underground. A clever mix of fact and fiction, this collection also includes how master storyteller Roald Dahl became a writer. With Roald Dahl, you can never be sure where reality ends and fantasy begins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is probably the best collection of Roald Dahl's short stories in existence. Although he is best known for writing children's novels, Dahl was a master of the short story, and always wanted to be known for writing something above the level of children. This book contains all the stories that combine his best elements; they are short stories, some of which have literary aspersions above his most famous novels, and yet they are accessible enough to be read by all ages. Needless to say, they are intensely, wickedly good. The collection contains seven stories, which range from 16 to 70 pages in length. The final two are definitely more adult oriented; *Lucky Break* is a memoir-style account of how he went from being a poor english student to a professional writer, and *A Piece of Cake* is his first published story, which appears to be based on his wartime experiences without necessarily being 100% accurate in its minor details. For an enthusiastic Dahl fan like myself, getting a glimpse of the man behind the curtain is exciting, and getting to know more about Dahl is a real treat. Really, all of the stories are just fantastic, so I won't bother repeating how good each one

is . But the stories are: The Boy Who Talked With Animals , which is about a young tourist boy at a beach resort who seeks to free a giant sea turtle which has been captured by the hotel management. This sounds like a children's story, but the characterization and the setting are quite adult. The Hitchhiker is an amusing tale about a british hitchhiker who reveals himself to be a fingersmith, a master classman of the pickpocketing profession. The interplay between three different levels of british society-the journalist driver, the rough cockney passenger, and a belligerent traffic cop, are very fun. The Mildenhall Treasure is an oddball story that is different because it's true (and not a firsthand experience). It tells the story of a plowman who comes across a great cache of valuable silver while plowing in the fields one day, and the way that it affects his life. The Swan is a story about childhood cruelty, in which a weak and inoffensive boy is pushed to the absolute limits of his endurance by two beebeegun-toting bullies who catch him in the woods alone. There is a surprise ending here that I've come to adore over the years. The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar is about a greedy man (Henry Sugar) who decides to apply himself to learn the powers of an indian yogi. This is a frame story around two interior stories that have the same themes, are fascinating in their own right, and which give weight to Henry's story. He finds that he can indeed learn the powers, but not without changing himself. This story ends with the type of madcap scheming that colors so many of his children's books. I loved each one of these stories, from the time I was a preteen right through today, twenty years later. They all display Dahl's ability to find the most interesting parts of a story, and to make them even more interesting. Even better, many of these stories have something to say, which gives them some literary merit even as they entertain us. If you like these stories, you might give his adult short story collections a try (collections I would recommend are *The Umbrella Man* and *Skin*).

Lookin for a good book while browsing through the bookstore? Pick up this. I know that you'll read one sentence and then you'll be hooked on it through the entire two hundred something pages. It is a Dahl masterpiece. Dahl is my favorite writer of all time, but this is his best. Dahl is a unborng classical writer, even though he hasn't been elected as one. I have read all of his books and short stories (except for the out of print ones) and they are the best. Even his adult ones I've read. But this, as I said, is the best. It is my prized posession. The only problem is that my copy is not a hardcover. Seven stories, with the style of a writer who has been wishing at a genie to be the best writer ever. The stories are: THE BOY WHO TALKED WITH ANIMALS, THE HITCHHIKER, THE SWAN, THE MILDENHALL TREASURE, THE WONDERFUL STORY OF HENRY SUGAR, LUCKY BREAK: HOW I BECAME A WRITER, and A PIECE OF CAKE. You must buy a copy of this!

This is a collection of short stories written by Roald Dahl. The first story is The Boy who talked with animals. This story is about an old turtle that gets caught by a bunch of fishermen. They are about to drag the turtle up the beach when a boy comes running down the beach and hugs the ferocious turtle. He appears to be talking to him. The father of the boy buys the turtle, and the turtle swims away, but the next morning the kid is gone. The second story is called The Hitchhiker. It is about a man who hitchhikes in a guy's car. The man steals the mans shoelace, his belt, and his wallet without the mans knowing. He gives them back though. He is very quick with his hands and he can take anything he wants without people knowing. The next story is The Swan. It is about a boy who gets bullied and the bullying kids shoot a swan. They cut off the swan's wings and tie them to the boy's arms. They force him to climb a tree, and forced him to jump, and try to "fly." In a miracle the boy flies back to his house, and to safety. The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar is about a man named Henry who reads a book that tells you how to see without your eyes. Henry practices this for years until he has mastered it. Henry goes to a casino and he can see through the cards. Henry starts going to different casinos and sending his winnings to orphanages. Lucky Break is about how he became a writer. He was in the war with Germany and after the war, a writer wanted to write about him in the paper. He wrote out a little story about him in the war and sent it to the writer, and the writer loved it. He published it under Roald's name. A Piece of Cake is that first story that Roald wrote. It is about him crashing, and having all of these weird dreams that he can't stop running, and that he is drowning.

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