

The First Person and Other Stories

'One of the most inventive writers we have.
She jumps from high places and lands on her feet'
Jackie Kay

Ali Smith the first person and other stories



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著者:Ali Smith

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This collection of 12 intriguing short stories, by British novelist and Booker nominee Smith (*Hotel World*, 2001), is long on atmospheric and short on conventional plotting. In “The Child,” a woman goes grocery shopping, but her mundane chore turns surreal when she encounters an angelic-looking abandoned baby, whom she attempts to help. When the child begins spewing hateful misogynistic and racist jokes, the woman decides that reabandonment is the best way to go. In “I Know Something You Don’t Know,” a mother distraught over her son’s deadly illness calls up two alternative healers she finds in the Yellow Pages. One robs her blind, while the other makes only a feeble attempt to read the boy’s fortune. If Smith excels at creating, both in her stories and in her readers, a sense of eerie dislocation, she can also stir up an enchanting sense of whimsy, as in “The Third Person,” which posits a dozen beguiling scenarios for the future of a relationship, noting the “endless music that’s there between people, waiting to be played.” --Joanne Wilkinson

作者介绍:

Ali Smith is a writer, born in 1962 in Inverness, Scotland, to working-class parents. She was raised in a council house in Inverness and now lives in Cambridge. She studied at Aberdeen, and then at Cambridge, for a Ph.D. that was never finished. In a 2004 interview with writing magazine *Mslxia*, she talked briefly about the difficulty of becoming ill with chronic fatigue syndrome for a year and how it forced her to give up her job as a lecturer at University of Strathclyde to focus on what she really wanted to do: writing. Openly gay, she has been with her partner Sarah Wood for 17 years and dedicates all her books to her.

目录: CONTENTS

True Short Story
The Child
Present
The Third Person
Fidelio and Bess
The History of History
No Exit
The Second Person
I Know Something You Don't Know
Writ
Astute Fiery Luxurious
The First Person
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短篇小说

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评论

像是概念性的专辑，几乎每个故事都藏着一个记忆的碎片，像引用的门罗对短篇小说的看法:Every short story is at least two short stories.
最后一个故事又是一封情书，甜死人不偿命的ali smith。

Ali Smith的书对我来说还是实验性太强了--
虽然时不时会有让人不免内心一颤的小桥段，读起来很新鲜奇妙，大半故事一遍下来还是糊里糊涂。

"Franz Kafka says that the short story is a cage in search of a bird" (15).
短篇小说读起来还是很畅快的/超市手推车惊现小大人那一个很好看，有违天真的婴儿/
在bar吃饭的场景比较像爱德华·霍普的Nighthawks/还有讲婚姻的。

在4000多英文本书里随便挑了这么一本，本来想着，不管一流作者，三流作者都看看吧~意外得挺合胃口的。沉浸在ali

Smith的想象里，从一个小剧场穿透到另一个小剧场，突然觉得，这样的漫无边际也挺像我的。不少篇章，充满对着第二人称的叙述与对话，觉得sweet，有时又觉得两者人格有那么点抽离，但又如此相近。lover is wonderful, so what if you are not the first person.

算frame-within-a-frame吗? Mise en abyme? 尤其Fidelio and Bess可能最明显. 喜欢true short story-a cage in search of a bird; the child也好玩
可能是画面感+有些笑话没听过的新鲜感; the history of history感觉像没完 revealing one's true self? 但结尾她没跳出来讲几句感觉好不完整; no exit半夜看得我也睡不着了
被困住了吗有被救出来吗

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书评

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