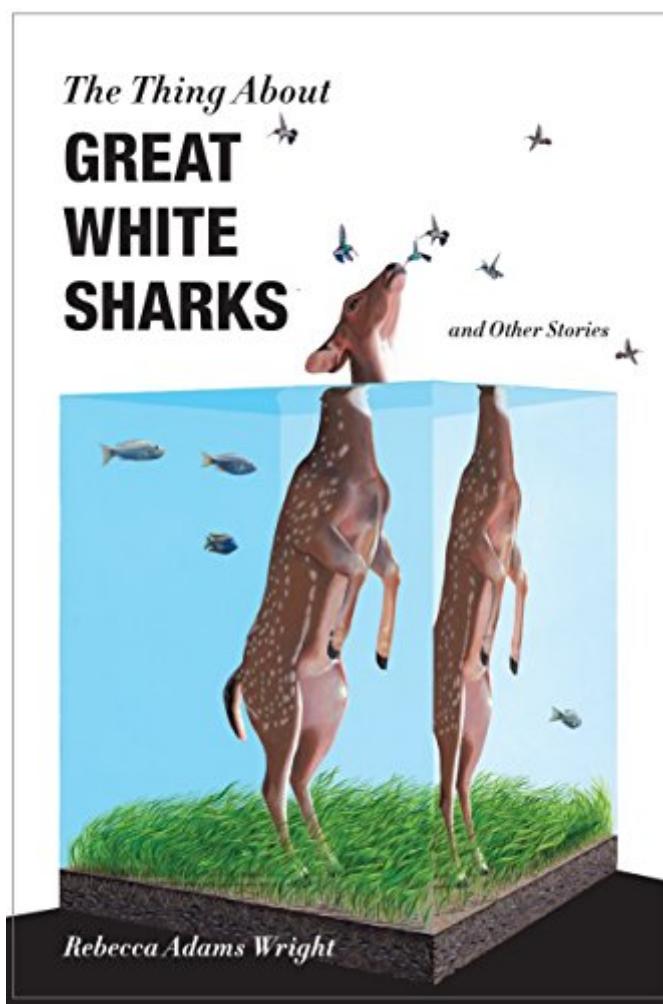


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The Thing About Great White Sharks: And Other Stories



Synopsis

In this collection's richly imagined title story, our brutal and resourceful protagonist is determined to protect her family from a murderous, shark-ridden world at any cost. Elsewhere, an old woman uncovers a sinister plot while looking after a friend's plants ("Orchids"), and a girl in the war-torn countryside befriends an unlikely creature ("Keeper of the Glass"). In "Barnstormers," a futuristic flying circus tries to forestall bankruptcy with one last memorable show. At the heart of "Sheila" is the terrible choice a retired judge must make when faced with the destruction of his beloved robotic dog, and "Yuri, in a Blue Dress" follows one of the last survivors of an alien invasion as she seeks help. Extending from World War II to the far future, these fifteen stories offer a gorgeously observed perspective on our desire for connection and what it means to have compassion—for ourselves, for one another, for our past—and for whatever lies beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's been a long time since I've read a book that has moved me so deeply. Wright shines in many

elements--her gorgeous prose, quirky sense of humor, vast range (everything from sci-fi to fantasy to magical realism to historical fiction) and delightful imagination, just to name a few--but what she excels at most is her empathetic, profound understanding of people--the way we blame ourselves for things beyond our control, the fierce way we try to protect those we love (even if it means hurting them in the process), the way we love our pets beyond reason, and much more. Each of these stories packs an emotional punch that resonates with you long after the ending. It's hard to pick favorites, because each story is so finely-crafted, but my personal picks are "Sheila," (where an elderly man is faced with a government-mandated order to put his beloved robotic dog to sleep), "Tiger Bright," (a couple bereaved by the loss of their infant daughter inherits a tiger), "Melville Loves Hawthorne" (an American author educational actor finds himself fixated on, and then disappointed by, his idealized image of his coworker), and "The Thing About Great White Sharks" (in a future where animals and plants have viciously turned against mankind, a badass woman is forced by the government to fight in a series of increasingly difficult tests). But honestly, there isn't a story in the bunch that hits a false note--they are all seriously THAT good!

Feral in the best way--wild stories, wildly talented new author. Wright glides through various narrative modes with ease. It's difficult to choose, but if I had to decide on a favorite, I'd say "Tiger Bright." That said, all of the stories are strange and compelling. Fans of Kelly Link will enjoy.

I read this book during 1 day of travel and it was absolutely perfect. Each story is more unique than the last. I would probably consider it a collection of science fiction stories. I found each of the stories highly entertaining, especially "Orchids" and "Yuri, in a Blue Dress". The whole thing was a little weird, which I thought was different and fun. I would recommend it to sci-fi and fantasy fans.

I loved these stories - they are challenging, poignant and unquestionably imaginative. Wright is clearly a bright and keen observer of nature, both human and otherwise. My favourite stories to read draw you in, give you a very haunting jolt and are unfairly short. They're rare to find, and The Other Husband is one of them. Orchids, Sheila and the The Thing About Great White Sharks were especially well-crafted, though I enjoyed them all.

A friend told me about this interesting little book of short stories and it sounded so intriguing I had to

buy it. I was enchanted by the rich, wildly inventive story lines and found it almost impossible to put down. Finished it in very short order. Hope Ms. Wright is well into her next collection!

This book was a lot of short stories about nothing but nonsense taking you nowhere and ending in nowhere. Every time

I ordered this book solely upon the recommendation of friends and didn't have any idea what to expect. I knew I was in for something good, though, after picking out and reading the shortest story first (all I had time for before heading to work in the morning...). It was, "The Other Husband," and although a few reviews have said that one went over their head or wasn't their style, I thought it was absolutely brilliant. Just from those two pages I knew Rebecca Wright has a masterful command of words and even with only two pages to do it, could weave them into great stories. The next time I sat down with the book I intended to read just one before bed, but I couldn't stop myself and ended up reading four. The shorts in this collection are varied and engaging. I highly recommend this book, especially the following tales: Sheila, Tiger Bright, Orchids, The Other Husband, Barnstormers, Storybag, and Aleph Bat. I hope Rebecca Wright continues to write and treats us to some more fine tales.

I typically stay away from short stories. They're unfulfilling, but these are quite good and I've enjoyed using them during little breaks while I'm waiting for swim lessons to finish or in carline at school.

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