



# 7 BEST SHORT STORIES **MOTHERHOOD**

EDITED BY AUGUST NEMO

TACET BOOKS

7 BEST SHORT STORIES

# Motherhood Stories

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August Nemo



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# Authors

**Sherwood Anderson** was an American novelist and short story writer, known for subjective and self-revealing works. Self-educated, he rose to become a successful copywriter and business owner in Cleveland and Elyria, Ohio. In 1912, Anderson had a nervous breakdown that led him to abandon his business and family to become a writer. At the time, he moved to Chicago and was eventually married three additional times. His most enduring work is the short-story sequence *Winesburg, Ohio*, which launched his career. Throughout the 1920s, Anderson published several short story collections, novels, memoirs, books of essays, and a book of poetry. Though his books sold reasonably well, *Dark Laughter* (1925), a novel inspired by Anderson's time in New Orleans during the 1920s, was his only bestseller.

**Willa Sibert Cather** was an American writer who achieved recognition for her novels of frontier life on the Great Plains. Cather graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She lived and worked in Pittsburgh for ten years, supporting herself as a magazine editor and high school English teacher. At the age of 33 she moved to New York City, her primary home for the rest of her life, though she also traveled widely and spent considerable time at her summer residence on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick.

**Timothy Shay Arthur** was a popular 19th-century American author. He is famously known for his temperance novel *Ten Nights in a Bar-Room and What I Saw There* (1854), which helped demonize alcohol in the eyes of the American public. He was also the author of dozens of stories for *Godey's Lady's Book*, the most popular American monthly magazine in the antebellum era, and he published and edited his own *Arthur's Home Magazine*, a periodical in



the Godey's model, for many years. Virtually forgotten now, Arthur did much to articulate and disseminate the values, beliefs, and habits that defined respectable, decorous middle-class life in antebellum America.

**James Augustine Aloysius Joyce** was an Irish novelist, short story writer, poet, teacher, and literary critic. He contributed to the modernist avant-garde and is regarded as one of the most influential and important authors of the 20th century. Although most of his adult life was spent abroad, Joyce's fictional universe centres on Dublin and is populated largely by characters who closely resemble family members, enemies and friends from his time there. *Ulysses* in particular is set with precision in the streets and alleyways of the city. Shortly after the publication of *Ulysses*, he elucidated this preoccupation somewhat, saying, "For myself, I always write about Dublin, because if I can get to the heart of Dublin I can get to the heart of all the cities of the world. In the particular is contained the universal."

**Henri René Albert Guy de Maupassant** was a 19th century French author, remembered as a master of the short story form, and as a representative of the Naturalist school, who depicted human lives and destinies and social forces in disillusioned and often pessimistic terms. Maupassant was a protégé of Gustave Flaubert and his stories are characterized by economy of style and efficient, effortless outcomes. Many are set during the Franco-Prussian War of the 1870s, describing the futility of war and the innocent civilians who, caught up in events beyond their control, are permanently changed by their experiences. He wrote some 300 short stories, six novels, three travel books, and one volume of verse.

***Matsuo Bashō*** was the most famous poet of the Edo period in Japan. During his lifetime, Bashō was recognized for his works in the collaborative haikai no renga form; today, after

centuries of commentary, he is recognized as the greatest master of haiku (then called hokku). Matsuo Bashō's poetry is internationally renowned; and, in Japan, many of his poems are reproduced on monuments and traditional sites.