

# Unveiling the Hidden Gems: Two Captivating Short Stories from the Southern Tip of Africa

## 1. The Smell of Apples



In the quaint town of Montagu, nestled amidst the breathtaking mountains of the Western Cape, Mark Behr's "The Smell of Apples" paints a vivid canvas of longing, loss, and the enduring bonds of family.

**The Hindu Peacock: Two short stories from the southern tip of Africa** by Rowan Coleman

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1385 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 7 pages  
Lending : Enabled



The story revolves around a young woman named Esme, who returns to her childhood home after the death of her beloved grandmother. As she steps into the familiar surroundings, a myriad of memories come flooding back, stirring a bittersweet symphony of emotions.

Through Behr's evocative prose, we are transported into the heart of a close-knit family, where secrets whisper through the walls and the scent of apples lingers in the air. Esme's grandmother, a formidable and enigmatic figure, emerges as the central thread that binds the family together, even in her absence.

As Esme delves deeper into the past, she uncovers a web of unspoken truths and hidden desires that have shaped the lives of those around her. The smell of apples, once a symbol of comfort and childhood innocence, now becomes a haunting reminder of the bittersweet passage of time.

In "The Smell of Apples," Behr masterfully weaves a tapestry of human experience, where the ordinary intertwines with the extraordinary. It is a story that lingers in the mind long after the final page is turned, leaving us to ponder the complexities of love, loss, and the enduring power of family.

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## 2. The Kiss



The Kiss by Nadine Gordimer

Moving from the tranquil beauty of Montagu to the vibrant streets of Johannesburg, Nadine Gordimer's "The Kiss" offers a poignant glimpse into the lives of two young lovers navigating the complexities of race, politics, and societal expectations.

The story centers on a forbidden kiss shared between Michael, a white man, and Mary, a black woman, in the midst of South Africa's apartheid era.

This single act of defiance sets off a chain of events that tests the limits of their love and the boundaries of their society.

Gordimer's writing is both incisive and compassionate, as she delves into the psychological and emotional turmoil faced by Michael and Mary. They find themselves caught in a web of fear, isolation, and the watchful eyes of a society determined to keep them apart.

Through their journey, we witness the resilience of the human spirit, the power of love to transcend societal barriers, and the devastating consequences that prejudice can inflict on individuals and communities.

In "The Kiss," Gordimer delivers a timeless and thought-provoking tale that speaks to the universal themes of love, identity, and the search for human connection in a divided world.



These two short stories, separated by time and setting, offer a compelling glimpse into the rich tapestry of South African literature. They showcase the diverse voices, experiences, and perspectives that make this region a literary treasure.

From the poignant reflections of "The Smell of Apples" to the unflinching examination of race and society in "The Kiss," these stories invite us to explore the depths of human experience, challenge societal norms, and

celebrate the indomitable spirit of those who dare to love and live authentically.

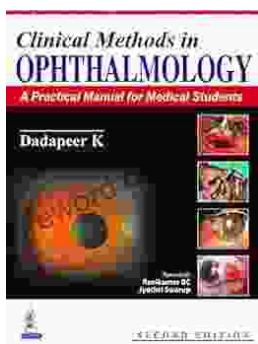
As we close the pages of these captivating tales, we are left with a profound appreciation for the power of literature to transport us to different worlds, ignite our imaginations, and inspire us to embrace the complexities and beauty of our shared humanity.



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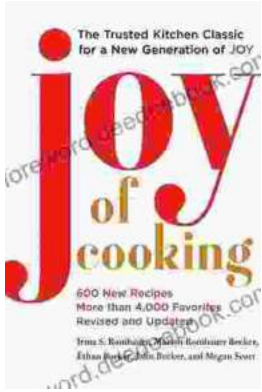
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