

# Too Much Happiness Alice Munro

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*Too Much Happiness*  
Alice Munro

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## HANA HESS

A Selection of Stories Everyman's Library

In the stories that make up *Dance of the Happy Shades*, the deceptive calm of small-town life is brought memorably to the page, revealing the countryside of Southwestern Ontario to be home to as many small sufferings and unanticipated emotions as any place. This is the book that earned Alice Munro a devoted readership and established her as one of Canada's most beloved writers. Winner of the Governor General's Award for Fiction, *Dance of the Happy Shades* is Alice Munro's first short story collection.

Little Sparrow Margie Incorporated  
All of these eight wonderful stories are about what people will do for love, and the unexpected routes their passion will force them to take. An old landlady in Vancouver who alarms the just-married narrator with her prim advice about married life - and "the peculiar threat" of a china cabinet that must be washed once a month - is shown to have conspired when young in a crime of passion. A young mother, at the mercy of the "radiant explosion" that comes when she thinks of her secret life, abandons her baby and four-year old to be with her lover in the story "The Children Stay." A gruff old country doctor in the 1960s is discovered by his daughter to be helping desperate women, his "special patients." An impetuous young woman meets a visiting Indian student and conceives on a train from Vancouver to Toronto because of "the fact that you couldn't get condoms around the Calgary station, not for love or money." An Ontario farm wife's affair drives her husband to commit a murder; its discovery, years later, will act as a negotiating point for a new, presumably satisfactory, marriage. The book is clear-eyed about the imperfections of marriage, the clutter of our emotional lives, and the impermanence of love: "Not that that was the end. For we did make up. But we didn't forgive each other." Even the shared memories of earlier times prove to be a minefield, and many of the stories track the changes that time brings over generations to families, lovers, and even

to friends who share old, intimate secrets about "the prostration of love." As always these stories by Alice Munro are shot through with humour, and are as rich as novels. As always the characters in the stories are easily, sometimes uncomfortably, recognizable as people like us. One quote summarizes the delightful surprises that await the reader: "Did you ever think that people's lives could be like that and end up like this? Well, they can."

**Friend of My Youth** Catapult  
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 Ten superb new stories by one of our most beloved and admired writers—the winner of the 2009 Man Booker International Prize. With clarity and ease, Alice Munro once again renders complex, difficult events and emotions into stories about the unpredictable ways in which men and women accommodate and often transcend what happens in their lives. In the first story a young wife and mother, suffering from the unbearable pain of losing her three children, gains solace from a most surprising source. In another, a young woman, in the aftermath of an unusual and humiliating seduction, reacts in a clever if less-than-admirable fashion. Other tales uncover the "deep-holes" in a marriage, the unsuspected cruelty of children, and, in the long title story, the yearnings of a nineteenth-century female mathematician.

*The Immortals* Random House  
In her Introduction, Margaret Atwood says, "Alice Munro is among the major writers of English fiction of our time ... Among writers themselves, her name is spoken in hushed tones." My Best Stories is a dazzling selection of stories-seventeen favourites chosen by the author from across her distinguished career. The stories are arranged in the order written, allowing even the most devoted Munro admirer to discover how her work developed, taking surprising turns. The stories span a quarter of a century and include "Royal Beatings," "Friend of My Youth," and "The Love of a Good Woman." This is a book to read-and re-read-very slowly, savouring each story. This collection of small masterpieces deserves a place in every Canadian booklover's home.

**Too Much Happiness** Houghton Mifflin

Harcourt

Suffused with Russell Banks's trademark lyricism and reckless humor, the twelve stories in *A Permanent Member of the Family* examine the myriad ways we try—and sometimes fail—to connect with one another, as we seek a home in the world. In the title story, a father looks back on the legend of the cherished family dog whose divided loyalties mirrored the fragmenting of his marriage. "A Former Marine" asks, to chilling effect, if one can ever stop being a parent. And in the haunting, evocative "Veronica," a mysterious woman searching for her daughter may not be who she claims she is. Moving between the stark beauty of winter in upstate New York and the seductive heat of Florida, Banks's acute and penetrating collection demonstrates the range and virtuosity of both his narrative prowess and his startlingly panoramic vision of modern American life.

*Dear Life* Vintage  
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 In this series of interweaving stories, Munro recreates the evolving bond between two women in the course of almost forty years. One is Flo, practical, suspicious of other people's airs, at times dismayingly vulgar. the other is Rose, Flo's stepdaughter, a clumsy, shy girl who somehow leaves the small town she grew up in to achieve her own equivocal success in the larger world. Selected Stories, 1968-1994 Vintage  
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE These are beguiling, provocative stories about manipulative men and the women who outwit them, about destructive marriages and curdled friendships, about mothers and sons, about moments which change or haunt a life. Alice Munro's stories surprise and delight, turning lives into art, expanding our world and shedding light on the strange workings of the human heart.

**Illumination Night** Vintage  
In 1980s Bombay, a highly regarded voice teacher and his affluent sixteen-year-old student enter into a relationship that will have unexpected and lasting consequences in their lives, and the lives of their families. With exquisitely sensuous detail, quiet humor, and unsentimental poignancy, Amit Chaudhuri paints a

luminous portrait of the spiritual and emotional force behind a revered Indian tradition; of two fundamentally different but intricately intertwined families; and of a society choosing between the old and the new.

*Stories* Random House

Tom Thomson In Purgatory is a collection of poetry from the creator of "Tom Thomson", a literary character whom former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins claims to be "a verbal phantom, the result of the poet's word-spinning, but at the same time we lean forward to believe in him--our hero for the moment, a man of the hour..."

**The Year of the Flood** Random House India

The Three Stories that Inspired the Movie With a foreword by Pedro Almodóvar Alice Munro is cherished for her exquisite, affecting meditations on the human heart. In these three linked stories, "Chance," "Soon," and "Silence"—which, together, inspired Pedro Almodóvar's film Julieta—her virtuosic talents are once again on display. The stories follow a schoolteacher named Juliet as she is swept up by fate: meeting an older man on a train and starting an affair; later, visiting her parents as a young mother; and later still, searching for contact with her estranged daughter. As with all of Munro's characters, Juliet radiates warmth, dignity, and hope, even as she is unflinching in the face of betrayal and loss. In Munro's hands, her journey is as surprising, extraordinary, and precious as life itself.

A Permanent Member of the Family

Vintage

Away From Her is a stunning collection of nine short stories that deal with the substance of adult life. They draw us immediately into that special place known as Alice Munro Territory - where an unexpected twist or a suddenly recaptured memory can trace the arc of an entire life. An aging couple's relationship is tested as the woman develops Alzheimer's disease and forgets her long years of marriage in the title story "Away from Her." The fate of a strong-minded house-keeper, just entering the dangerous country of old-maid hood, is unintentionally reversed by a practical joke. A college student visiting her aunt and recognizing the family furniture stumbles on a long-hidden secret and its meaning in her own life. A woman recollecting an afternoon's wild lovemaking with a stranger realizes how the memory has changed and sustained her through a lifetime. Personal histories, both complex and simple, unfold in rich detail in this astonishing collection of stories, providing a further reason why

Munro is often referred to as "our contemporary Chekhov." The short story "Away from Her" - originally titled "The Bear Came Over the Mountain" in the collection Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage - is now a major motion picture by Sarah Polley.

Stories Penguin Books Canada

Spanning her last five collections and bringing together her finest work from the past fifteen years, this new selection of Alice Munro's stories infuses everyday lives with a wealth of nuance and insight. Written with emotion and empathy, beautifully observed and remarkably crafted, these stories are nothing short of perfection. This is a masterclass in the genre, from an author who deservedly lays claim to being one of the 'major fiction writers of our time'.

*Too Much Happiness* Vintage

Too Much Happiness Vintage Books

*Inside the World's Premier Film Festival* Vintage Books

A WASHINGTON POST BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR When a man discovers his father in New York has long had another, secret, family—a wife and two kids—the interlocking fates of both families lead to surprise loyalties, love triangles, and a reservoir of inner strength in this "expansive and elegantly crafted novel" (Fresh Air, NPR). "Rich with the complexities of life . . . the stories create a world made fully dimensional through changes of perspective—major characters appear and reappear as part of one or another's experience and testimony . . . Pull any life's thread and you discover a mesh of involvement that soon takes in all the others. It is a fine thing, subtly done, and truly exhilarating." —The Wall Street Journal Ethan, a young lawyer in New York, learns that his father has long kept a second family—a Thai wife and two kids living in Queens. In the aftermath of this revelation, Ethan's mother spends a year working abroad, returning much changed, as events introduce her to the other wife. Across town, Ethan's half brothers are caught in their own complicated journeys: one brother's penchant for minor delinquency has escalated, and the other must travel to Bangkok to bail him out, while the bargains their mother has struck about love and money continue to shape their lives. As Ethan finds himself caught in a love triangle of his own, the interwoven fates of these two households elegantly unfurl to encompass a woman rallying to help an ill brother with an unreliable lover and a filmmaker with a girlhood spent in Nepal. Evoking a generous and humane spirit, and a story that ranges over three continents, Secrets

of Happiness elucidates the ways people marshal the resources at hand to forge their own forms of joy.

*Stories of Flo and Rose* Douglas Gibson Books

The old tea house on Mulberry Street in Belfast hasn't changed much over the years. But it's about to bear witness to some significant transformations ... Daniel Stanley might make the most glorious deserts in the whole of Ireland, but he won't support his wife Penny's desire to have at least one bun in the oven. And the owners of Muldoon's Tea Rooms are just two of the people inside hoping for change. Struggling artist Brenda sits penning letters to Nicholas Cage and dreaming of a better life. Sadie finds refuge from her diet and her husband's infidelity in Daniel's famous cherry cheesecake. Clare returns home from twenty years in New York, still cherishing the memory of the one night she truly loved - and lost. And Penny herself discovers a secret from the past - and a sexy estate agent very much in her present. They all want their lives to change - but are they willing to face the consequences? And the possibility that you might not always be able to have your cake - and eat it.

*Away from Her* Penguin UK

A man grows tired of his open-plan office and builds a fort made of stationery. A woman's euphoria at finally achieving Desktop Zero is quickly replaced with despair. A group of copywriters dream of being poets, and a disillusioned sales executive overthinks his think piece. In the mind-bendingly upside-down world of Sadvertising, iPhones have feelings, brands come to life, creative directors disappear into parallel universes and lowly freelancers become immortal. It's a world where gods, ghosts and muses stalk the corridors of bland and placeless offices, and the wondrous exists alongside the mundane. Short, punchy and direct, Ennis Cehic's satirical fables are box-fresh and shot through with pitch-black humour, existential dread and late capitalist yearning for meaning. They grapple with love and loneliness, art and commerce, dream and reality, and reflect the absurdity of the modern condition. Sadvertising is a surreal, subversive and utterly contemporary literary debut from an unforgettable new voice.

*Cutting for Stone* Too Much Happiness WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 Vintage Readers are a perfect introduction to some of the greatest modern writers presented in attractive, accessible paperback editions. "In Munro's hands, as in Chekhov's, a

short story is more than big enough to hold the world—and to astonish us again and again.” —Chicago Tribune In an unbroken procession of brilliant, revelatory short stories, Alice Munro has unfolded the wordless secrets that lie at the heart of all human experience. She has won three Governor General’s Literary Awards in her native Canada, as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award. Vintage Munro includes stories from throughout her career: The title stories from her collections *The Moons of Jupiter*; *The Progress of Love*; *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*; “Differently,” from *Selected Stories*, and “Carried Away,” from *Open Secrets*. *My Best Stories* McClelland & Stewart

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 The ten miraculously accomplished stories in Alice Munro's *Friend of My Youth* not only astonish and delight but also convey the unspoken mysteries at the heart of all human experience. "[Friend of My Youth is] a wonderful collection of stories, beautifully written and deeply felt."--Michiko Kakutani, *New York Times*  
*Stories* Vintage  
 An array of short fiction, selected by the author and spanning the full range of her career, encompasses seventeen stories, drawn from such collections as *The Beggar Maid*, *The Moons of Jupiter*, and *Runaway*. **Cannes** Douglas Gibson Books

An international literary event: Ten new stories from a beloved and award-winning author. This stunning collection of new stories demonstrates once again why Alice Munro is celebrated as a pre-eminent master of the short story. While some of the stories are traditional, set in “Alice Munro Country” in Ontario or in B.C., dealing with ordinary women’s lives, others have a new, sharper edge. They involve child murders, strange sex, and a terrifying home invasion. By way of astonishing variety, the title story, set in Victorian Europe, follows the last journey from France to Sweden of a famous Russian mathematician. This daring, superb collection proves that Alice Munro will always surprise you.