



Loot and Other Stories

By Nadine Gordimer

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With her characteristic brilliance, Nobel Prize winner Nadine Gordimer follows the inner lives of characters confronted by unforeseen circumstances. An earthquake offers tragedy and opportunity in the title story, exposing both an ocean bed strewn with treasure and the avarice of the town's survivors. 'Mission Statement' is the story of a bureaucrat's idealism, the ghosts of colonial history, and a love affair with a government minister that ends astoundingly. And in 'Karma,' Gordimer's inventiveness knows no bounds: in five returns to earthly life, a disembodied narrator, taking on different ages and genders, testifies to unfinished business and questions the nature of existence. Revelatory and powerful, these are stories that challenge our deepest convictions even as they dazzle us with their artful lyricism.

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Loot and Other Stories By Nadine Gordimer Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As was the case with many South African writers, Gordimer's fiction benefited, ironically enough, from the stark moral contrasts created by apartheid. The nine stories in this collection show Gordimer trying to gain a fictional perspective on the new era, and there are some missteps among them as she employs heavy-handed symbolism and less-than-revelatory social observations ("They had met at a party, the customary first stage in the white middle-class ritual of mating choices"). The title story describes an earthquake that "tipped a continental shelf" and drew back the ocean over a vast expanse, so that the detritus of the past, littered over the ocean floor, has been revealed. In response, people rush down into the former ocean bed and try to pry up treasure, unaware that the ocean, in a great wave, is coming back. In another allegorical story, "Look-Alikes," homeless, unemployed laborers invade a college campus, staking out a campsite in the sports fields, and are joined, sneakily at first, then openly, by the college's sympathetic faculty. "Karma" is a series of emblematic sketches set in various periods between WWII and the present day, which include the stories of Norma, an antiapartheid activist who got caught in a corruption scandal, and Denise, a white baby adopted by a black family in apartheid days, absurdly forbidden by law from marrying her white lover. These vividly imagined characters are among the best in the book, but the story is burdened with an awkward reincarnation conceit that is meant to hold the disparate episodes together. Overall, the stories feel tentative, as though they were straight out of Gordimer's sketch book, and needed a layer of finish.

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From [Booklist](#)

Since Gordimer won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991, her great novels, such as *The House Gun* (1998) and *The Pickup* (2001), have continued to open up the contemporary scene--in her native South Africa and elsewhere--with passionate insight and astonishing storytelling. But many of the short stories in this collection, her first in 12 years, are more situations than fully developed fiction. "Generation Gap" is a hilarious scenario of middle-aged kids in a flap when their elderly father leaves their mother for a young woman. In "Diamond Mine," a teen has her first sexual experience with a soldier in the backseat of the car while her parents in front drone on about the scenery. The longest story, "Mission Statement," about a dedicated woman sent to Africa by an international aid agency, is worth the book, both a brilliant lampoon of the bureaucratic empowerment babble ("projects of policy, infrastructure, communications, trade, treaties . . .") and a haunting drama of modern lovers who can't get free of a past "where violence lies shallowly buried." That's what Gordimer always does best: the sense of history in the bedroom now. *Hazel Rochman*

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Review

Gordimer's meticulous charting of human weakness and self-deception is as exact as ever... Deeply exhilarating. (*The Boston Globe*)

Gordimer is brilliant... Her stories are achingly beautiful. (*Pittsburgh Post- Gazette*)

A remarkable collection. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kurt Gomez:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim as well as goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They may be reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, individual feel need book after they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Loot and Other Stories.

Tiara Arnold:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stay than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading the book, we give you that Loot and Other Stories book as nice and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Terrie Newlin:

Loot and Other Stories can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing Loot and Other Stories nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial considering.

Effie Steger:

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