



The Fate of Mice

By Susan Palwick

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Gathering together the most outstanding short stories of Susan Palwick's twenty-year literary career, *The Fate of Mice* is a powerful collection from an extraordinary fantasist. These unflinching tales, including three original pieces, consider a woman born with her heart exposed and the heartless killer who protects her, a wolf who is willingly ensnared by a devious academic, a businessman resurrected to play at politics, and an ingenious mouse dreaming beyond the laboratory.

With the perceptiveness of Joyce Carol Oates, the inventiveness of Ray Bradbury, and the emotional resonance of Alice Sebold, *The Fate of Mice* is a meditation on the very art of storytelling: mythic, beautiful, and often brutal, filled with authentic compassion.

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The Fate of Mice By Susan Palwick Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Spanning the past 20 years of Palwick's career, the eight previously published and three new stories in this outstanding collection (after her 2005 novel *The Necessary Beggar*) display the author's versatility. The fine title story about an IQ-enhanced mouse named Rodney recalls "Flowers for Algernon." "Gestella" centers on a woman werewolf whose accelerated aging complicates her doomed marriage to a self-obsessed professor. In "Jo's Hair," Palwick imagines remarkable alternate fates for Louisa May Alcott's little woman, Jo March, and her chopped and sold chestnut braid. The quintessential fairy tale "Stormdusk" depicts a child worried about her mother, a trapped snow maiden; the wise, whimsical concluding gem, "GI Jesus," addresses friendship and sacred smalltown "miracles." Palwick's genre-bending short fiction defies categorization and blends humor with pathos. (Mar.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Palwick's literary output until now has been limited to two critically acclaimed novels, the most recent of them the ghost story *The Necessary Beggar* (2005). This, her first story collection is a welcome addition to her oeuvre and a fitting introduction to her wide-ranging talent and vision. In the title story, an homage to Daniel Keyes' classic story "Flowers for Algernon," an IQ-enhanced lab mouse awakens to the knowledge of his own impending demise. "Gestella" recounts the unsettling fate of a female werewolf who ages more rapidly than her increasingly less-interested human lover. In one of the volume's standouts, "GI Jesus," a small-town woman finds hope in the face of Jesus imprinted on an X-ray of her abdomen. All 11 pieces explore conundrums of human existence, from the perennial pursuit of utopia to the many faces of mortality. Embracing elements of both horror and speculative fiction, Palwick's unique and commanding fiction never fails to trigger an emotional response as it captures the imagination. *Carl Hays*

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Review

"A potent brew of mystery and heartache...gracefully knotted, densely lyrical."

—*Sci Fi Weekly/SciFi.com*

"Spanning the past 20 years of Palwick's career, the eight previously published and three new stories in this outstanding collection (after her 2005 novel *The Necessary Beggar*) display the author's versatility. The fine title story about an IQ-enhanced mouse named Rodney recalls Flowers for Algernon. 'Gestella' centers on a woman werewolf whose accelerated aging complicates her doomed marriage to a self-obsessed professor. In 'Jo's Hair' Palwick imagines remarkable alternate fates for Louisa May Alcott's little woman, Jo March, and her chopped and sold chestnut braid. The quintessential fairy tale 'Stormdusk' depicts a child worried about her mother, a trapped snow maiden; the wise, whimsical concluding gem, 'GI Jesus,' addresses friendship and sacred smalltown "miracles." Palwick's genre-bending short fiction defies categorization and blends humor with pathos."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Palwick's literary output until now has been limited to two critically acclaimed novels, the most recent of them the complex and moving ghost story *The Necessary Beggar* (2005). Thus her first story collection is a welcome addition to her oeuvre and a fitting introduction to her wide-ranging talent and vision. In the title story, a touching homage to Daniel Keyes' classic 'Flowers for Algernon,' an IQ-enhanced lab mouse

awakens to the knowledge of his own impending demise. ‘Gestella’ recounts the unsettling fate of a female werewolf who ages more rapidly than her increasingly less interested human lover. In one of the volume’s standouts, ‘GI Jesus,’ a small-town woman finds hope in the face of Jesus imprinted on an X-ray of her abdomen. All 11 pieces explore the most challenging conundrums of human existence, from the perennial pursuit of utopia to the many faces of mortality. Embracing elements of both horror and speculative fiction, Palwick’s unique and commanding fiction never fails to trigger an emotional response as it captures the imagination.”

—*Booklist*

“Palwick combines sharp political commentary with pleasing flights of fancy with deep psychological insight—and all in prose clear as water. Delicately balanced between hope and heartbreak, these are stories you’ll remember.”

—Karen Joy Fowler, author of *The Jane Austen Book Club* and *After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall*

“Palwick uses both fantasy and science in her fictions, flinching from neither the rational nor the ineffable in her quest to write stories exploring the fate of all living things.”

—*Seattle Times*

“Elegantly crafted short fiction.”

—*Locus*

“Palwick offers the kind of variety that we find in our best, our most powerful, and versatile authors.”

—*The Agony Column*

“This is a collection of magnificent, heart-breaking stories. Susan Palwick sees the world with a fearless clarity and tells a truth so sharp it makes you weep. Be warned: Long after you close the book, these stories will haunt you. They’ll stay with you, changing who you are and how you see the world around you.”

—Pat Murphy, author of *The City, Not Long After*

“*The Fate of Mice* shines light on our dark secrets with compassion, wit, and very fine writing.”

—Sheila Williams, editor of *Asimov’s*

“Palwick provides dramatic commentary with innovative structure.... Masterful writing, magical realism, slipstream, and literary fiction are all descriptors that come to mind.”

—*Tangent*

“These stories are brilliant and thought-provoking as well as packing an unexpectedly intense emotional punch.”

—Jo Walton, author of *Tooth and Claw* and *Farthing*

“These are strong stories full of dry humor and a powerful sense of what it means to collide with the hard, sharp edges of unforgiving reality and immutable truths. Palwick’s style is spare, direct, and a pleasure to read.”

—Suzy McKee Charnas, author of *Stagestruck Vampires*

“...a powerful and complex utopian streak...displays a keen intelligence and a fierce imagination.”

—*Montreal Gazette*

“The effect of the stories will linger long after the last page is turned.”

—*The Spectrum Circus*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Odessa Currie:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They can be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby will be reading a book. Consider the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book if they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will require this The Fate of Mice.

Chester Walters:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the name The Fate of Mice suitable to you? The book was written by well-known writer in this era. The book untitled The Fate of Mice is a single of several books in which everyone read now. This book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new shape that you ever know before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily to know the core of this publication. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world within this book.

Terry Palladino:

The reason? Because this The Fate of Mice is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret that inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Valentin Gonzalez:

Do you have something that you like such as book? The e-book lovers usually prefer to decide on book like comic, short story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not hoping The Fate of Mice that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the way for people to know world much better then how they react toward the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading practice only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for every you who want to start studying as your good habit, you may pick The Fate of Mice become your starter.

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