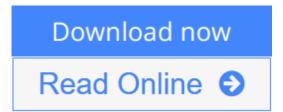# The Penguin Book of Modern British Short Stories

By Various

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
These 34 stories have all the hallmarks of post-1945 British culture: an amused attitude toward Americans and Australians, a comic fascination with sex, a baffling affection for a cold evening meal called "tea." In most cases, though, as the narrator of Adam Mars-Jones's "Structural Anthropology" says, "just below the surface of story . . . lies the tangled richness of myth." Stylistically, the works vary from Samuel Beckett's succinct avant-gardism to Doris Lessing's extended revisiting of naturalism a la Flaubert. The entire volume is recommended, especially Ian McEwan's "Psychopolis," which makes it clear why many consider him Great Britain's leading writer. David Kirby, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee
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About the Author

Malcolm Bradbury is a novelist, critic, television dramatist and Emeritus Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia. He is author of the novels *Eating People is Wrong* (1959); *Stepping Westward* (1965); *The History Man* (1975); which won the Royal Society of Literature Heinemann Prize and was adapted as a famous television series; *Rates of Exchange* (1983) which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize; *Cuts: A Very Short Novel* (1987), also televised; and *Doctor Criminale* (1992). His critical works include *The Modern American Novel* (1984; revised edition, 1992); *No, Not Bloomsbury* (essays, 1987); *The Modern world: Ten Great Writers* (1988); *From Puritanism to Post-modernism: A History of American Literature* (with Richard Ruland, 1991) He is the author of a collection of seven stories and nine parodies, entitled *Who Do You Think You Are?* (1976), and of several works of humour and satire, including *Why Come to Slaka?* (1986), *Unsent Letters* (1988; revised edition, 1995) and *Mensonge* (1987). Many of his books are published by Penguin. In addition, he has written many television plays and the television 'novel' *The Gravy Train* and *The Gravy Train Goes East*. He has adapted several television series, including Tom Sharpe's *Porterhouse Blue*, Kinglsey Amis's *The Green Man* and Stella Gibbon's' *Cold Comfort Farm*, now a feature film.

Malcolm Bradbury lives in Norwich, travels good deal, and in 1991 he was awarded the CBE.

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