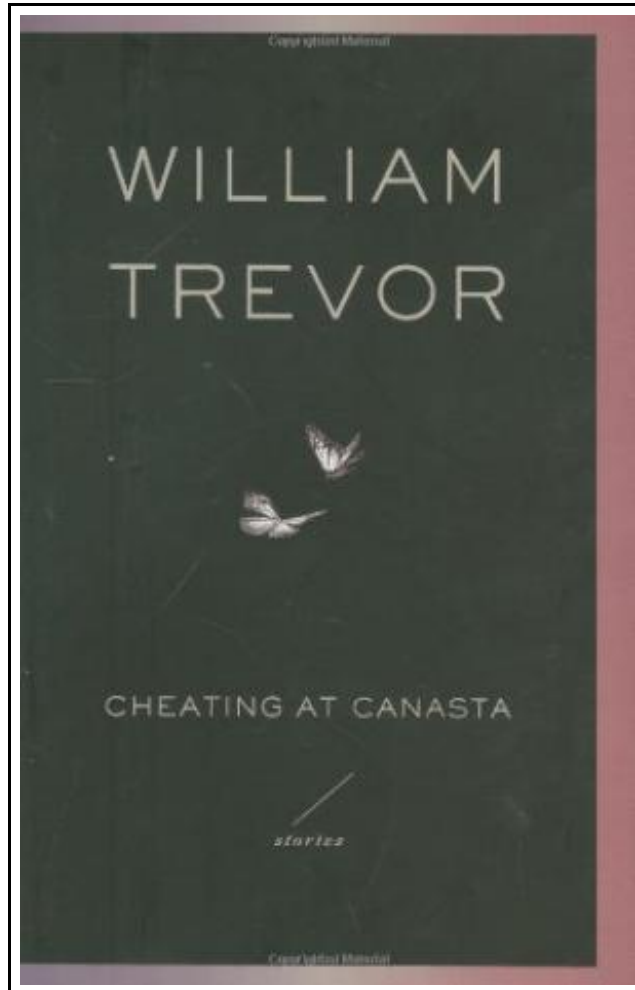


Cheating at Canasta: Stories



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Reviews

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CHEATING AT CANASTA: STORIES



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Summary: Magisterial. Trevors stories, however dark they may seem, however forlornly uncompromising, are actually significantly shaped. Trevor wants us to see the point of his narratives: he wants us to experience a small but genuine catharsis as we reach the last lines, to understand what the story is trying to say&Trevor is quite at ease with lengthy passages of time&Trevors method and aim are very precise&. Trevor both shows and tells, in case we miss the point something Chekhov never did. Trevor is not the Irish Chekhov&.he has created a version of the short story that almost ignores the forms hundred or so years of intricate evolution. These stories stay in the mind long after theyre finished because theyre so solid, so deliberately shaped and directed so surely toward their solemn, harsh conclusions. Perhaps there is an eighth type of short story after all: the Trevorian. The New York Times Book Review Literature will outpace us, like the cockroaches. After all the tinkering is done, the biggery and bettering, the rebuilding and ruining, we will have only books like William Trevors new collection Cheating at Canasta, to remind us how serious, noble, painful and happy human life once was. Trevors storiesso like James Joyces and Alice Munrospreserve something of the scale of human life. Los Angeles Times As a book critic, the three comments I hear most often are, I don't have time to read books, I don't like short stories,"and I only read nonfiction. A possible rejoinder to all three is: Have you ever read William Trevor? His stories many of which involve adultery, guilt, and longing are marvels of craftsmanship in which whole lives are distilled into potently concentrated essences that can be easily quaffed...



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