



# You Think It, I'll Say It

*Curtis Sittenfeld*

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## **You Think It, I'll Say It** Curtis Sittenfeld

A suburban mother of two fantasizes about the downfall of an old friend whose wholesome lifestyle empire may or may not be built on a lie. A high-powered lawyer honeymooning with her husband is caught off guard by the appearance of the girl who tormented her in high school. A shy Ivy League student learns the truth about a classmate's seemingly enviable life.

Curtis Sittenfeld has established a reputation as a sharp chronicler of the modern age who humanizes her subjects even as she skewers them. Throughout the ten stories in *You Think It, I'll Say It*, Sittenfeld upends assumptions about class, relationships, and gender roles in a nation that feels both adrift and viscerally divided.

With moving insight and uncanny precision, Curtis Sittenfeld pinpoints the questionable decisions, missed connections, and sometimes extraordinary coincidences that make up a life. Indeed, she writes what we're all thinking--if only we could express it with the wit of a master satirist, the storytelling gifts of an old-fashioned raconteur, and the vision of an American original.

## **You Think It, I'll Say It Details**

Date : Published March 5th 2019 by Random House Trade (first published April 24th 2018)

ISBN : 9780525508700

Author : Curtis Sittenfeld

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fiction

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# From Reader Review You Think It, I'll Say It for online ebook

**Thomas says**

**4.5 stars**

Loved this short story collection, grateful for my Goodreads' friends for pointing me to it. Curtis Sittenfeld gives us several perceptive stories about adults with messy pasts, nuanced relationships, and very real emotions. A few of the stories feature: a woman who sees her old queer fling marry a man and start her own cooking show, a newly divorced Gender Studies professor who has a hot and cold hookup with a Trump supporter, and a shy Ivy League student who learns the truth about her classmate's entrancing, enviable life. Sittenfeld has a talent for creating plots and situations that pulse with a quiet drama that connects you to her characters, even if only for 10 to 20 pages.

I most appreciated Sittenfeld's empathy for her characters and her intelligence. A lot of these stories focus on suburban lives, of women and men dealing with divorce, gender roles, infidelity, desire for old flames, jealousy, and more. Sittenfeld develops her characters with such skill that their unlikability is human, relatable, and almost comforting in its authenticity. So many times I would finish a story and think "oh wow, it's okay if I don't have my life completely figured out right now, or even when I'm 30, or 40, or ever" and "we really are always learning, making mistakes, and hopefully learning from them." I suspect Sittenfeld draws such distinct, fleshed out characters with so few pages at her disposal through capturing their emotions well. She describes nostalgia, longing, regret, hope, and contentment with great eloquence. Finally, her writing is so smart. Though it feels effortless when read, I can see that the creation of these stories - where they start, how much background to provide about each character, etc. - must require so much finesse and time spent mastering her craft.

Overall, an excellent short story collection I would recommend to anyone interested in contemporary life, especially the intricacies of relationships throughout the lifespan. As Roxane Gay noted in her review of *You Think It, I'll Say It*, the book is very white, but I did not mind that much and took it as a sign that Sittenfeld knows how to stay in her lane when it comes to race. I am excited to read more by this author and already reserved another one of her books at my local library.

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**Skyler Autumn says**

**4 Stars**

You Think It, I'll Say it is a collection of short stories that tackles the complexities and diversity of judgment. Whether it's based on personal biases, misgivings, or hilariously misconstrued situations the character's in Curtis Sittenfeld's stories are all victims of their own preconceived notions. We as readers get to see how damaging and self-sabotaging it is to let judgement fester within. Whether it's through a naive university student falsely idolizing her less than perfect friend, or a shelter volunteer feeling antagonistic towards the perky new girl, or a woman internet stalking her ex-lover turned famous lifestyle guru. You Think it, I'll say it is not a chastising towards judgement it's just a reflection and examination on a very common thing human's do towards each other. It's the old adage *don't judge a book by it's cover* we all know it, try to abide by it, but at the end of the day we all go into new situations and meet new people placing our own hidden meanings on different circumstance based purely on personal bias that we have accumulated through

life. Judgment is human nature and it was fun to read a collection of short stories circling around that theme.

I love Curtis Sittenfeld's writing! Her short stories are complex and unique and always leave you satisfied by the conclusion. I highly recommend this read, and judging (see what I did there) by my own love of this book and her last one *Eligible*, I am now certain I must devour everything this woman has written!

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## Emily May says

*You Think It I'll Say It* is fairly typical of short story collections in that there were a couple of stand-out stories, but most of them hovered around okay/not bad. None were terrible, at least.

Everyone raves about the first story "Gender Studies" and it's hard to argue with the hype on this one. I thought that story was fantastic. It made me sit up and take notice. It made me really eager to read the rest of the offerings in the collection. **It's so quiet and strange and sad.** I can't quite pinpoint what it is about it exactly, but it is extremely effective. It is just a brief encounter between two very different strangers, but it left me feeling shaken.

"The Prairie Wife" was another highlight. The narrator of the story follows the successful blog of a woman she knew as a teenager, believing her shiny perfect life to be a lie and a marketing tool. One aspect of it is very well-played, but I don't want to give it away. As well as that, though, I just liked the idea that maybe it is possible for people to change; maybe that's not being fake, but honest.

Most of the stories are about fairly quiet encounters between white upper middle class people. A few of these are excellent - full of poignant insights on human nature - but a lot sort of falter after their set-up and go nowhere. "Vox Clamantis in Deserto", for one, seems just like a bizarre series of events and I didn't really get the point of it. "Bad Latch" was a weak story that left me wondering "so what?"

Some are halfway between excellent and meh. "The World Has Many Butterflies" started very strong - another doomed encounter tinged with bittersweetness - but ended on what seemed like a metaphor yet didn't quite work. The final story explores an interesting scenario, too, but isn't quite as strong as I think it could have been.

That's the problem with short story collections: it's rare to find one where I enjoy all - or even most - of the stories. Still, if you like character-driven stories, I would highly recommend grabbing a library copy of this so you can check out "Gender Studies" and "The Prairie Wife".

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## Liz says

3.5 stars rounded up

Short stories are the tapas of the book menu. Small plates, when I like big portions. So, I was really conflicted about reading this. I like Curtis Sittenfeld, but I hate the fact that a short story typically ends just as I'm getting invested in a character.

There does seem to be a theme here, involving communication, appearances and first impressions. What do we say? What do we stay silent about? Or what do we think we know about someone vs. what is real. In each of these stories, the narrator misjudges someone.

Sittenfeld tackles some interesting subjects. Adult crushes, texting affairs, belatedly realized sexism. Almost all the stories involve the interaction between men and women.

All the stories are interesting, some really grabbed me (like *The World Has Many Butterflies* and *Plausible Deniability*). They're all really well written. She does a great job building up the tension between characters. And there's always a point to be made.

But damn it, in the end it comes down to I want more. A five minute YouTube clip isn't enough, I want a full length movie. Nothing against you, Curtis, this is just not my style. Please, please, please write a full length novel next time.

My thanks to netgalley and Random House for an advance copy of this book.

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## Navidad Thélamour says

*I'm relieved to have aged out of that sense that my primary obligation is to be pretty, relieved to work at a job that allows me to feel useful. Did I used to think being pretty was my primary obligation because I was in some way delusional? Or was it that I'd absorbed the messages I was meant to absorb with the same diligence with which I'd studied?*

Curtis Sittenfeld's *You Think It, I'll Say It*, is a collection for the grown woman, for the woman who still thinks back on her "youth" and college years with fondness but also with a sense of wonder – *is that who I was? Is this who I have become?*

This is a smart collection—one that explores the natural irony in our everyday lives. There's a lot of wistful nostalgia and contemplation in this collection on the feat—the very fact and act—of being pretty: what it means to be "pretty" and how that affects us as adult women.

*"I once heard that smart women want to be told they're pretty and pretty women want to be told they're smart. And the most depressing part is that I think I agree."*

An upper middle-class woman ponders the boredom and mundane quality of her routine life, only to seek out a thrill that may or may not have already been there from the start ("*The World Has Many Butterflies*").

A college student at her dad's Alma Mater who's idolized the school for most of her life also starts to idolize one of her college friends—only to find that the friend is just an average, flawed individual like everybody else ("*Vox Clamantis in Deserto*").

A young political intern with OCD snaps while volunteering at a shelter for poor urban families (“Volunteers Are Shining Stars”).

And a woman contemplates her near-hate-like jealousy for the reality lifestyle star who was her first lesbian experience way back when (“The Prairie Wife”).

Here would be a great place to say that “Plausible Deniability,” “Off the Record” and “A Regular Couple” were my other favorites. I wasn’t particularly fond of “Gender Studies,” in which a woman misplaces her license and ends up having a sexual encounter with the taxi driver she believes has found the license. I first read this one in *The New Yorker* in the fall of 2016. There were speculations and allusions from other bloggers that maybe Sittenfeld was offering political commentary on a nation’s identity lost! (I say in my dramatic voice) due to the (imminent) election of Trump, but I didn’t see it. I just took that story at face value and it wasn’t bad but it wasn’t a favorite either.

These are just a few of the narratives you’ll find here in this 10-story collection. There were **so many times** that a story would start and I’d fear it was going down the route of “Everyday Yuppie,” and I cringed. BUT, EVERY time, Sittenfeld pulled the story back from the brink with a twist of irony and humor. After the third or fourth story, I just relaxed into the read and went with it, knowing that the place I’d end up in the end wasn’t where I thought I was going in the beginning. I know I’m not alone when I say that I **LOVE** being able to trust an author, to trust a narrator, like that. It allows for a phenomenally smooth read and for the reader to have time to become one with the characters, no matter how short the stories are.

This collection ran a gamut of stories that wasn’t necessarily wide but did manage to convey a delightful spectrum of sentiments, emotions and lessons. “Bad Latch” was by far one of my favorite stories, hilariously Yuppie and otherworldly—these sheltered, middle-class moms who spend their days at infant swimming lessons and pregnancy yoga—then the story morphed into something so much more special and resonating:

*“It wasn’t that I looked down on parents who put their kids in daycare, it wasn’t that I disapproved of them, or at least if I did disapprove, I knew enough to be embarrassed by my disapproval...Nevertheless, on Sadie’s first day at Green Valley Children’s Center, I didn’t even make it out the front door before I burst into tears. I hadn’t felt that bad about some of the things that women having babies when I did...were supposed to feel bad about—an epidural, formula—but the collapse of my carefully crafted childcare setup seemed like a failure of a different magnitude.”*

In *You Think It, I’ll Say It*, Curtis Sittenfeld’s distinctive writing style is in full form. It’s casual and conversational, witty and makes for an easy, entertaining read. I also gave her a strong 4 stars for her novel *Eligible* for this same reason. I blew through about 60% of this collection in one sitting, so well did it flow and move me along with the characters and their ironic contemplative situations. Not only that, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that Sittenfeld is a true master of showing her reader rather than telling her reader. I got to know so much about her characters simply by watching them in their everyday lives, and she, as the writer, trusted her reader enough to let us figure out what she was trying to say. Each story is set in a different city (all either during or referencing the 1990s) which I thought was a FANTASTIC device, creating a kind of survey of American—well, upperish middle class white American—life. That survey aspect was a real gem, because each story in this collection set up a different dilemma rooted in the same basic question—the question of *Who am I, how did I get here, and am I okay with it?* None of these

stories takes an overly grandiose view of life. No one is living in a sci fi fantasy world of improbable circumstances and star ships. These stories all happen right here on Earth, literally, of course, but more importantly, figuratively. And for me, that's always a breath of fresh air. A strong 4 stars \*\*\*\*

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## **Elyse Walters says**

Curtis Sittenfeld is TERRIFIC!!! I LOVE THIS WOMAN...this author....her work! Oh....I'm not the only person nutty over this great woman/author.... 'many' of you feel the same.

I fell in love with Curtis years ago - 2005 - with her first novel "PREP". Three years later, Sittenfeld wrote "American Wife"... and she blew me away. It was also fantastic... with a new level of maturity to boot. I, personally, had a blast of fun reading "Eligible": A modern retelling of Pride and Prejudice. I read a few low reviews from readers missing their beloved characters ....but I loved the modernization updated story that took place in Cincinnati. I've had a new 'thing' for Cincinnati every since reading "Eligible"...

I wish I could be part of a seminar/group where we discussed ALL BOOKS by Curtis Sittenfeld. The icing on the cake would be if Curtis lead it.

When it comes to contemporary fiction - great laughs - insights - punch's of truth in my gut - I don't have to look much further than a Curtis Sittenfeld book.

"You Think It, I'll Say It", .....is A FABULOUS COLLECTION of short stories. The title of the book is actually 'not' the title of one of the short stories .... rather it is a GAME played between two people - Julie and Graham - in the short story called "The World Has Many Butterflies". It's a game I thought about ... as "DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME".... why? (I'll let you figure that out)....BUT THIS IS ONE FRICKIN GREAT STORY....with an edge of caution.

"A Regular Couple" is another AWESOME STORY!!! Actually my favorite of the bunch.....so much so - I read it to Paul. He laughed - and enjoyed it as much as me! Then when we went hiking this morning- and I was tying my shoes....I had a private laugh to myself...( you'll have to read the story to enjoy the inside joke).....

There's a lot going on in the story - including - complete strangers were saying Maggie had betrayed feminism. She had been a prosecutor on a televised case where a man is accused of raping a cocktail waitress there was not sufficient evidence against him, but many people in the public felt he was guilty. Sound familiar? :). There is much more to 'this' story.

Jason and Maggie are on their honeymoon. The year is 2008. Maggie sees an old nightmarish blonde woman, Ashley Frye, who attended her high school in Cleveland 1992....who happens to be on her honeymoon, too. She is married to a guy named Ed.

\*Yippy-do-da\*.....Jason, Maggie, Ashley, and Ed are going to enjoy some couple-bonding! Oh, boy... things just start to get fun.

Maggie's thoughts on the morning hike are:

"Below her daypack, I could see her little butt, encased in jogging shorts, and her tan, shapely legs, which ended in gray wool socks and hiking boots. Even though we were surrounded by birch trees and wildflowers and distance snow-peaked mountains, my attention was on Ashley— I detested myself for this, and I also

couldn't help it".

And if you like that.....wait until they meet for dinner.

ALL THE STORIES ARE GREAT! I loved everything about it and I highly recommend it.... everyone needs a few short stories and a little Curtis Sittenfeld now and then!

Thank You Netgalley, Random House, and Curtis Sittenfeld!

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## Larry H says

4.5 stars.

Many of us, whether we'll admit it or not, have made snap judgments about people. Sometimes we judge people we might have met once, or known a long time ago, and are coming into contact with them again after a while. Sometimes we believe something about a person we know well, while other times, it's people we don't know, but we formulate an opinion based on something we hear them say or do.

The characters in Curtis Sittenfeld's first story collection, ***You Think It, I'll Say It***, are all guilty of judging others, but the tension in the 10 stories occurs when those judgments are revealed to be incorrect, either gradually or all at once. The end result are thought-provoking stories which leave their mark in your head, and at times, in your heart.

I enjoyed all of the stories in the collection, although I felt eight of them were the strongest. My favorites included: "The Prairie Wife," in which an unappreciated housewife realizes a popular celebrity was a girl she was romantically involved with briefly during summer camp, although the celebrity is now a married darling of conservatives; "Gender Studies," which follows a college professor's fling with her airport shuttle driver—for the wrong reason; "Off the Record," about a freelance writer lined up to interview an actress on the cusp of major fame, someone she had connected with when interviewing them a few years earlier; "The World Has Many Butterflies," in which a man and a woman engage in a gossipy game every time they see each other, but only one interprets that as the sign of something deeper; and "Do-Over," about a reunion between two boarding school classmates who each have different interpretations of past events.

I've been a fan of Sittenfeld's since I read her debut novel, ***Prep***, back in 2005. I found it so engaging and surprising, and I've followed her work ever since. That same talent is more than evident in ***You Think It, I'll Say It***—these stories aren't outlandish or unrealistic, and you could imagine the situations the characters face happening to you, or hearing about them from people you know. Her writing style is so breezy and approachable, and there were times I didn't realize how dazzling her words were until after they passed me by, kind of like a person wearing a cologne or perfume you suddenly catch the scent of.

I know short stories aren't for everyone, but this is one of those collections I think even non-story lovers might enjoy. Most of the stories feel like mini-novels, and there were at least a few I'd love to see developed into something more expansive. ***You Think It, I'll Say It*** is a prime example of why I love stories, and the incredible talent it takes to make a collection work. Come on, give it a shot!

NetGalley and Random House provided me an advance copy of the book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making this available!



See all of my reviews at [itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com](https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com), or check out my list of the best books I read in 2017 at <https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2018/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2017.html>.

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## Julie Ehlers says

Anyone who follows my reviews probably already knows that I am a huge fan of Curtis Sittenfeld, so when this ARC unexpectedly arrived in the mail, I was beside myself with excitement. I intended to save it until I finished the book I'd just started, but when I idly paged through *You Think It, I'll Say It*, I was immediately drawn into the first story, "Gender Studies," and wanted nothing more than to keep reading. The funny thing is, I'd already read "Gender Studies" when it appeared in the *New Yorker* last year. I decided if I was that sucked in by something I'd *already read*, putting aside my current book and picking up this one was the only sensible thing to do.

And I was right! I usually hesitate to read a book of short stories all at once, preferring to space the stories out over time, but when it came to *You Think It, I'll Say It* I just rushed in and never felt any of my usual desire to slow things down. Sittenfeld's protagonists, with their tendency to miss important details even as they overthink nearly everything, just speak to me. The title story even contains a character named Julie who displays an obliviousness that was so uncomfortably familiar to me that I felt weirdly as if Sittenfeld had somehow actually written it *about* me (you think it, I'll say it, indeed). There was the usual humor and brisk pacing, and what struck me most was that nearly all of these stories had an actual plot, where things happen and there's a definite conclusion. Given how many short stories seem deliberately low on plot, this is worth remarking on, and a definite plus in my opinion. It's true that eventually a lot of these characters began to feel similar to me, which is one of the main risks a reader takes in reading a short-story collection all in one go, but the stories themselves were each so unique that this wasn't too much of a drawback.

Indeed, the only real complaint I have about this collection is that I wished I could have gotten to know these people even better. I think I'm always going to prefer a Curtis Sittenfeld novel, where she's able to settle in to her characters to the extent that their epiphanies seem totally natural, remarkably insightful, and completely earned. There's no way I'd give *You Think It, I'll Say It* less than 4 stars, but really it's an array of appetizers, and I'm already looking forward to her next main course.

I won this ARC through either a Shelf Awareness giveaway or a giveaway directly from the publisher—I'm not sure which! Either way, thank you to Random House.

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## Perry says

Curtis Sittenfeld has a near perfect bead on the earlier stages of middle age in present days; most if not all of her stories revolve about a primary character who graduated high school in the early to mid-1990s and is suffering the preliminary throes, at least, of existentialism

Two of the stories were such empathic thwacks each left me breathless with how dead-on it captured soulful pains recently experienced. Besides the briefest one, with breastfeeding its pivot ("Bad Latch"), I identified with and thoroughly enjoyed all the splendid stories, despite most being female-centric and slanted--justly so--against men.

I was tickled to discover Sittenfeld's mordant wit and sense of humor, the finest of any female author in my recent memory, e.g., husband responding to wife asking whether he found woman attractive, *"She's hot, but in a cheesy way. You know, what she looks like is a pharmaceutical rep."*

This collection deserves a finalist slot on all the prestigious book award nominations in the coming months. The best collection I have read since the tremendous trifecta a few years back of *Fortune Smiles*, *The Tsar of Love and Techno*, and *Thirteen Ways of Looking*.

Very highly recommended.

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## **Caroline says**

\*\*\*NO SPOILERS\*\*\*

Sittenfeld's is a style I adore--brave, insightful commentary on real life written in engaging prose--and it works perfectly for this collection, my newest favorite. Most of these stories have a wistful quality, some outright sad, but in a way that left an impression on me rather than plunged me into a depression. Many take a little surprise turn, adding the spark that makes this collection such a great one. Absent is anything purely cheerful or sugary. At most, there are bittersweet moments.

My common complaint with short stories is that often their premise is too ambitious for the format. Twenty or so pages is so few and too many short story writers lack the talent to work within that limitation. Sittenfeld went deep but exercised restraint; the premise of each fits just right. At the end of almost every story, I was disappointed not because she didn't fully realize her premise but because a story I enjoyed had come to an end. I long for a full-length book for some of these.

I was particularly moved by "Gender Studies," "A Regular Couple," "Off the Record," "The Prairie Wife," and "Volunteers Are Shining Stars." These explore big themes such as class differences, sexual confusion and exploration, snobbery, and insecurity, to name a few, and various smaller life dilemmas. They're the kinds of common themes that connect one human being to another, and dilemmas everyone has faced just by virtue of being alive.

I feel sure that Sittenfeld fans will enjoy this collection, but I also recommend this to lovers of literary fiction, especially of the very candid variety. There's real life in these pages.

Recommended similar reading: *Nine Inches: Stories* by Tom Perrotta.

NOTE: I received this as an Advanced Reader Copy from LibraryThing in April 2018.

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## **Dianne says**

Terrific collection of ten short stories with a very contemporary vibe. The stories explore gender bias and identity, political bias, midlife angst, social awkwardness, the culture of celebrity, social media obsessiveness and competitiveness, ambivalence about motherhood, and mental illness. Lest this sound unappetizing - who wants to be hammered over the head with all THAT stuff? - these stories are gentle,

subtle and expertly crafted. Sittenfeld's writing is sublime; her perception is uncanny. And the humor - it's there, but it's not biting and mean, it's softhearted and knowing.

I loved all of stories. Sittenfeld brought me up short on one of them and cleverly exposed a bias of my own and made me laugh at myself. If you read this collection, I am referring to "The Prairie Wife" story - I made an assumption I shouldn't have. I bow to her astuteness in setting me up for the fall. I'm sure I won't be the only one!

I'd only read two of Sittenfeld's works prior to this - "Eligible" (meh) and "Sisterland" (loved!). I have yet to get to "Prep" and "American Wife," but I will definitely be reading those.

I highly recommend this to those who love perfectly crafted sort stories and gentle social commentary. A 4.5 for me.

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### **Melki says**

Sittenfeld's characters deal with some thoroughly modern problems - should a feminist shave her pubic hair, is it okay to out an old flame on social media, whether or not to have sex with a Trump supporter . . . but they also have the same needs and wants we all have: the desire to be accepted, connect with friends, and find love. They worry over their children's futures, and are occasionally tempted to stray outside the marriage bed. Therein, I believe, lies the appeal of this short story collection: you might be shaking your head at some of the characters' choices, but you may just see a little of yourself in them as well.

If you're still not sure Sittenfeld is for you, try out these two stories from *The New Yorker*, and see what you think.

<https://www.newyorker.com/podcast/the...>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/20...>

I really like her stuff; you may not.

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### **Roxane says**

Solid collection. Sittenfeld is an excellent writer. These stories are all beautifully composed and they draw you in. I am impressed by how engaged I felt with each set of characters in each stories.

There is a mean undercurrent in many of the stories. Some might call it honesty. The way her characters see others, themselves... is rarely charitable. Nor does it need to be. At a few points though, I found myself thinking, "is everyone in the world really so terrible?" So much here made me cringe in the best possible way. People, man.

Also these are white middle class people stories. That's not a bad thing. These stories are really good! But there is one story where people of color kind of serve as a backdrop against with the protagonist acts and it's a bit awkward in that it reveals the whiteness of the collection in very distinct ways. This is an observation

more than a judgment.

Prairie Wife is as amazing as ever. I've read that story several times and it never gets old. Look for it in BASS 2018. Which I am editing. Shameless, I am.

Anyway this is well worth reading

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## **Jessica says**

I received this book for free through LibraryThing's Early Reviewers.

This collection of short stories was so amazing!

I've only ever read Curtis Sittenfeld's novel, Prep. I read that a long time ago (like around 10 years ago) but I do remember that I enjoyed it. I've never read any of her short stories so I did not know what to expect.

I was blown away by how good ALL the stories were. Usually with short story collections, there will be some stories I liked and some that I didn't. But with this collection I can honestly say that I liked them all. I was trying to decide which one was my favorite, but after much debating, I just couldn't pick one!

Subject-wise, all the stories were very current. A lot of them dealt with motherhood and marriage.

I really liked how the book came full circle. The very first story mentioned the presidential candidacy of Donald Trump and the last story mentioned the election of Donald Trump. That connection gave the book a sense of closure, which you don't really see in short story collections.

Curtis Sittenfeld's writing style is phenomenal. She writes with such an ease that makes it all seem so effortless. She is truly a talented writer.

Overall, if you are looking for a quality short story collection, then definitely pick this book up!

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## **Barry Pierce says**

*You Think It, I'll Say It* is Curtis Sittenfeld's first short story collection. It is also my first Sittenfeld. After cutting her teeth on novels, she has decided to pare things back and present us with a collection of ten contemporary short stories - all of which are near perfect.

My standout story has to be 'Off the Record', the story of a journalist (and new mother) who conducts a truly disastrous cover story interview with one of Hollywood's biggest names. It is a comic and incredibly cringe-inducing story about motherhood and its perils.

I wish I had more to say about this collection, but I'm afraid I hate nothing more than just listing superlatives. I will genuinely be impressed if a better collection of stories is published in 2018. Sittenfeld, mon amour.

