



Gentleman's Relish

Patrick Gale

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An exhilarating new collection of stories by the author of Richard & Judy-bestseller *Notes from an Exhibition* Patrick Gale, which combines wit and poignancy to illuminate experiences both common and uncommon. Love (& loathing) within families are dissected -- a father makes an unexpected discovery about his son which is too hard for him to cope with. A son wreaks revenge through the power of cookery. Three generations of the same family gain freedom through the years in a once-despised caravan. A bored wife finds happiness when an old lag teaches her the art of angling. A dog-training lesson with a puppy who hasn't grasped the meaning of 'obedience' leads to the discovery of a murder. Here too are music and silence -- the sweetness and sadness of Festivals, of the Church, and of the control exercised by those in charge in small communities. This tremendously enjoyable collection of stories has the same wit, tenderness and acute psychological observation as Gale's bestselling novels, including *Notes from an Exhibition* and the recent *The Whole Day Through*. For Gale's many fans, *Gentleman's Relish* will be a real treat.

Gentleman's Relish Details

Date : Published October 1st 2009 by Fourth Estate (GB)

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Author : Patrick Gale

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From Reader Review Gentleman's Relish for online ebook

Anna says

each short story was a joy

Doreen says

Not Patrick Gale's best but I'm not a fan of short stories generally. Some good but some relied too much on unlikely or supernatural plot twists. I prefer his more realistic full length tales driven mostly by character.

Lisa says

A delightful collection of stories - really enjoyed them.

Haldoor42 says

This is a collection of short stories by one of my very favourite British authors. All he writes is wonderful, although I wouldn't claim this as one of my favourites. I like the build-up of a longer story usually, although some of these were brilliant, especially the one about Making Hay which was a completely horrific delight, if that makes sense. Some of them had me thinking, and others just had me wanting more, so while they were good, I only give four stars because others by him have been more to my liking!

Malcolm says

A bit of a disappointment after the broad sweeps of his fiction.

It all seemed too compressed, too rushed...having said that I did enjoy the story of the man who cooks a deadly meal for his dad

Denise Strong says

This was my reading group's choice of book for June 2013. I hated it! I found the stories (except possibly the first one) twisted, macabre, frequently judgemental and occasionally downright offensive. I wouldn't read another book by this author.

4triplezed says

Well that was interesting. Easy to read and an odd kind of antidote to the black arm band history that I tend to devour. I am convinced that most of these yarns and the almost rustic writing style would not have been out of place in an English (not British) high school essay writing competition. But the subject matter? Bit more high/low brow shall we say? Almost a challenge to the more conservative in society? I mean the title of the collection and also the last story in the book, Gentleman's Relish. A "a highly seasoned anchovy paste" says the google search but go look at the urban dictionary! I looked that up after finishing and I have to be honest this was all new to naïve little old me. I have to admit though that I did laugh out loud when I considered a few of these stories in hindsight. Clever writer this Patrick Gale and what an imagination. Might read him again one day.

Patrick Gale is indeed an interesting writer.

Liz says

This was a delightful book of short stories. Every story was a pearl of wisdom in one form or another. I had forgotten just how much short stories are entertaining.

Carlton says

An enjoyable collection of 16 short stories that give an insight into aspects of Gale's novels, including stories based in Cornwall (farming and music making), British public schools (although from the father's perspective), naturist holiday camps and prisons.

There are a couple of supernatural stories which read as if they have been written to illustrate how a ghost story might be written in a contemporary setting, that do not work for me as the 'shock' technique feels passe, but they are compensated for by those, 'Saving Space' and 'Petals on a Pool', where the supernatural element works, even though sentimental.

I was fortunate to hear Patrick Gale reading from 'Cookery' and 'Gentleman's Relish', so these are the strongest stories for me, as I can still hear his voice and they could be semi-autobiographical.

Diane says

I don't normally like short stories by my favoured authors (Sophie Hannah, Joanne Harris) I usually pick them up accidentally - and have not liked them enough to actively avoid them now but this was better than most. I never meant to get this book but, again, didn't realise it was short stories so I'm glad it wasn't totally disappointing.

Ginsoakedboy says

By Patrick's own admission short stories are not a popular medium. That surprises me although I have several friends, including my father, who are avid readers and they don't enjoy short stories. I would have

expected them to work very well for today's society with short attention spans and desire for quick, instant fixes. They don't need a huge investment and can be read in short snatches of time without needing to remember what happened before - perfect if you don't have a lot of time to spend reading.

In terms of Gentlemen's Relish, Patrick's second set of short stories after Dangerous Pleasures published 10 years ago, it is a fabulous collection. The short story format gives Patrick the opportunity to explore his dark side and includes wonderful ghost stories and some unsettling tales of the macabre that are, in turns, deliciously wicked and chilling. These are accompanied by heart warming and humorous tales of people and relationships.

It's hard to pick a favourite but Freedom and Gentlemen's Relish were particularly lovely, the latter could easily have been the opening chapter to a fabulous novel but also had a completeness in its own right. Saving Space is the best of the chillers. If you don't usually go for short stories this is a great place to start, something for everyone and Patrick's fans certainly won't be disappointed.

Jo says

My friend Mo sent me this book for my birthday and I really enjoyed being able to dip in randomly on these short stories. Patrick Gale is one of my favorite authors, but I do find his short stories somewhat darker than his novels. Although that could just be because they are condensed into just a few pages and the shock of the twist in the story seems sharper. Great fun to pick one at random thou and read it over a cup of coffee.

Huw Rhys says

The short story is a much overlooked medium - it has the ability to entertain, inform and educate us in a very succinct and attractive way.

And in this intriguingly titled collection of short stories, Patrick Gayle takes full advantage of the medium - he terrorises, titillates, teaches and teases us in equal measures during the course of 16 very different stories.

He quite openly tells us that this collection has been put together as the result of a series of very diverse commissions over a period of time - which probably explains why there isn't a "dud" story amongst them, and why the timbre and genre of each individual story is quite distinct from all its fellow stories.

There is wickedness and levity liberally splattered throughout the book - even some of the the more supernatural, macabre and tense offerings still have a very dark, mischievous and downright naughty seam running right through them. And there is fruitiness in abundance here as well - more than enough fruit to feed the most voracious of 5 plus a day fruity habits! And that's as close as I intend to get to warning you that some of the content here is pretty explicit!

We have some ghost stories here, some thrillers, some tales that are simply dark and others that are disturbing beyond being just simply dark. But these deeper tales are liberally juxtaposed with comedies, love stories, beautiful homilific tales and as ever, Patrick Gale's superb mastery of the art of describing human relations.

If you've already enjoyed some of his novels - then this collection will just confirm what you already know about Patrick Gale's very sage take on life. If you haven't discovered Patrick Gale as yet though - then here's the perfect excuse to get to know one of our most exciting contemporary authors.

Kathryn says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book of short stories. The twists in some of the stories make them really enjoyable, especially if you have a dark sense of humour.

Nicky says

Loved it - Patrick Gale writes so well about the things he knows: living within a prison (as a member of a prison governor's family!); life in Cornwall; music; and relationships. Fluent and easy to read, with believable characters.
