

## Online Library The Robert Olen Butler Prize Stories 2004 Paperback Pdf Free Copy

A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain Late City Severance  
Perfume River Fiction of Robert Olen Butler From Where You  
Dream Hell A Small Hotel Tabloid Dreams Had a Good Time The  
Star of Istanbul Fair Warning On Distant Ground Wabash The  
Empire of Night Countrymen of Bones The Deep Green Sea The  
Hot Country Wabash The 2009 Robert Olen Butler Prize Stories  
Fair Warning Sun Dogs Wabash They Whisper The Deuce Mr.  
Spaceman Paris in the Dark The Hemingway Valise A Good Scent  
from a Strange Mountain :-- Fair Warning Proof The Best  
Peace Fiction Fair Warning The Alleys of Eden Perfume River  
Intercourse The Robert Olen Butler Prize Stories 2008 A  
Handful of Kings A Study Guide for Robert Olen Butler's  
"Good Scent from a Strange Mountain" Salem College Presents  
Robert Olen Butler September 5, 2002 [sound Recording]. On  
Distant Ground

"A slim, erotic and fable-like . . . book that picks up on  
many of Butler's abiding themes—the legacy of the Vietnam  
War, the clash of Vietnam's folklore and mysticism with  
American manners . . . [Butler is] a writer working to cast  
a spell." —New York Times Book Review "In a deceptively  
understated manner, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Robert  
Olen Butler introduces us to a pair of improbable modern  
lovers . . . [he] plants the seeds of a tragedy that will  
haunt his readers long after they finish this lyrical love  
story." —People In The Deep Green Sea, Robert Olen Butler  
has created an incandescent tale of modern love between a  
Vietnamese woman, orphaned in 1975 when Saigon fell to the  
Communists, and a Vietnam War veteran, returning from  
America to seek closure for decades-old emotional wounds.  
The more they nurture the love between them, the more they  
learn about each other, the more complex and dangerous their  
relationship becomes, and what follows conjures classical  
tragedy, infused with intense eroticism and with Butler's

reverence for Vietnamese mythology and history. *The Deep Green Sea* is a landmark work in the literature of love and war. Amy Dickerson, a star employee of a renowned auction house, falls in love with Alain Bouchard, a cultured French business mogul, but their seemingly perfect relationship slowly begins to crumble, forcing Amy to make a startling discovery. An American spy in Paris solves a legendary mystery as the Pulitzer Prize-winning author's "thrilling historical series" continues (*The Wall Street Journal*). Former Chicago journalist turned globe-trotting spy Christopher Marlowe Cobb has already lived many lives—from London to Mexico to Berlin—when he returns to France in 1922. Where better to work on his novel than among such literary expatriates as Ezra Pound and Ford Madox Ford, who convene at the Shakespeare & Company bookstore in postwar Paris? Among them is Ernest Hemingway, fellow lone-wolf war correspondent, new friend, and confidante. Like Cobb, Hemingway is writing a novel. Unlike Cobb, however, Hemingway's manuscript has just been stolen off a train to Lausanne by what he's sure were foreign agents. To know what Hemingway knows is risky enough. But to write about it is positively dangerous. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Cobb volunteers to retrieve the manuscript—but he'll need all of his spycraft skills to infiltrate the compound where it's cached. In the spring of 1975, Army Intelligence captain David Fleming, about to be court-martialed for having kidnapped and released a Viet Cong prisoner, sets out to find the son he believes he has sired in Saigon "Gloriously imaginative and utterly hypnotizing short stories" inspired by vintage twentieth-century postcards, from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author (*Booklist*, starred review). For many years, author Robert Olen Butler has collected picture postcards from the early twentieth century—not so much for the pictures on the fronts but for the messages written on the backs, little bits of the captured souls of people long since passed away. Using these brief messages of real people from another age, Butler here creates fully imagined stories that speak to the universal human condition. In "Up by Heart," a Tennessee miner is

called upon to become a preacher, and then asked to complete an altogether more sinister task. In "The Ironworkers' Hayride," a young man named Milton embarks on a romantic adventure with a girl with a wooden leg. From the deeply moving "Carl and I," in which a young wife writes a postcard in reply to a card from her husband who is dying of tuberculosis, to the eerily familiar "The One in White," in which a newspaper reporter covers an incident of American military adventurism in a foreign land, these short stories are intimate and fascinating glimpses into the lives of ordinary people in an extraordinary age. "A wonderful collection."—The Atlantic Monthly

From one of America's most important writers, *Perfume River* is an exquisite novel that examines family ties and the legacy of the Vietnam War through the portrait of a single North Florida family. Robert Quinlan is a seventy-year-old historian, teaching at Florida State University, where his wife Darla is also tenured. Their marriage, forged in the fervor of anti-Vietnam-war protests, now bears the fractures of time, both personal and historical, with the couple trapped in an existence of morning coffee and solitary jogging and separate offices. For Robert and Darla, the cracks remain under the surface, whereas the divisions in Robert's own family are more apparent: he has almost no relationship with his brother Jimmy, who became estranged from the family as the Vietnam War intensified. Robert and Jimmy's father, a veteran of WWII, is coming to the end of his life, and aftershocks of war ripple across their lives once again, when Jimmy refuses to appear at his father's bedside. And an unstable homeless man whom Robert at first takes to be a fellow Vietnam veteran turns out to have a deep impact not just on Robert, but on his entire family." *The Robert Olen Butler Prize Stories* represents the best in contemporary short fiction. These eleven stories, including Annie Weatherwax's prize-winning story, "The Possibility of Things," selected by Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler, demonstrate the power and variety possible in this vibrant literary form. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author's "strange and finally beautiful tale about obsession and

modern love" (Beth Kephart, *The Baltimore Sun*). *Fair Warning* is acclaimed novelist Robert Olen Butler's enthralling glimpse into a Manhattan auction house that caters to the shopping pheromones of the rich and powerful. At age forty, the company's charismatic star employee, Amy Dickerson, is capable of selling a Renoir painting of a pudgy nude for twice its value. Her customers are intoxicated by the objects they covet. And sometimes, such as when the dark and mysterious Trevor locks eyes with Amy as she closes an auction with "fair warning," that object is Amy herself. Selected as a Book Sense 76 title and as a New York Times Summer Reading title, *Fair Warning* "is as frank and sassy as its heroine" (Amanda Heller, *The Boston Globe*). "Fair Warning deserves our praise, but its author also deserves our gratitude, for his continued risk-taking and stubbornly singular sensibility." —Todd Kliman, *The Washington Post* Autumn 1915. The First World War is raging across Europe. Christopher Marlowe 'Kit' Cobb, a Chicago reporter and undercover agent for the US government, is in Paris when he meets an enigmatic nurse called Louise. Officially in the city for a story about American ambulance drivers, Cobb is grateful for the opportunity to get to know her. Soon his intelligence handler, James Polk Trask, extends his mission and he is active again. Parisians are meeting 'death by dynamite' in a new campaign of bombings, and the German-speaking Kit seems just the man to discover who is behind this. "In the thrilling third installment of the Christopher Marlowe Cobb series, Kit discovers a secret plan to transform Zeppelins into dangerous killing machines--and to turn the tide of war in Germany's favor" -- The nine short stories collected here, selected by our judge and panel of readers from a pool of over five hundred stories, admirably showcase the range, vitality, and distinction of the contemporary literary short story. Kimberly Willardson's winning story, "Winter Memories of the Summer Bear," was chosen from the 2008 contest's nine finalists by our judge, Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler. *Sun Dogs*, the haunting second novel by Pulitzer-winner Robert Olen Butler, probes a man's search for viable meaning in his

life, for personal salvation. With explosive tension and masterful suspense, *A Handful of Kings* is a page-turning thriller about what really happens in the world of espionage, by an insider who has lived it. American diplomat Vicky Sorrell learns the hard way that all is fair in love -- and espionage. *A Handful of Kings*, the latest novel by prolific author and former foreign service officer Mark Jacobs, follows Vicky's fast-paced tour of duty -- one where she must decide who the bad guys are, who is lying, and who just might be telling the dangerous truth. Vicky is changing her life. She is leaving the foreign service and her lover at the same time. But before she departs the U.S. embassy in Madrid for home, a well-known American writer shows up with a strange request. Vicky knows that what the writer wants from her is not necessarily what he is asking. But curiosity leads her to play along, and she is quickly drawn into the murky underground of terrorists and spies into which the writer himself has been reluctantly led. The track she takes is full of wrong turns. And at the end of the tunnel, it's not light she sees but an unspeakable threat to people she loves. Recalling Graham Greene in *The Comedians*, Jacobs weaves an engrossing story that takes place over three continents and illuminates the unexpected ways people betray and defend one another and, ultimately, how they learn to love. A collection of short fiction by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author offers a revealing look at what goes through a person's mind during sex as he captures the innermost thoughts of such couples as Bonnie and Clyde, Adam and Eve, and Richard Milhous Nixon and Pat Nixon. Few writers have delved into the psychological lives of Vietnam vets as Butler has. This novel tests the love between an American deserter in Vietnam and a Vietnamese woman, who are bonded by the extremities of the war. When the couple try to start over in America, they are faced with a different set of challenges. --Customer at Amazon.com. American spy and war correspondent Christopher Marlowe Cobb follows a man who may be a German secret service agent with vital information on to the Lusitania during World War I in this sequel to *The Hot Country*. 20,000 first printing. Wabash is a town on the

Illinois side of the Mississippi, across from St. Louis. Wabash is also the name of the steel mill, which is the main industry here in the summer of 1932. This is the setting for Butler's novel about the Coles, Deborah and Jeremy. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author shares an "exceptionally nuanced, tender, funny, tragic, and utterly transfixing portrait" of one man's troubled century (Booklist, starred review). At 115 years old, former newspaperman Sam Cunningham is also the last surviving veteran of World War I. As he prepares to die in a Chicago nursing home, the results of the 2016 presidential election come in—and he finds himself in a wide-ranging conversation with a surprising God. As the two review Sam's life, the grand epic of the twentieth century comes sharply into focus. Sam grows up in Louisiana under the flawed morality of an abusive father. Eager to escape, Sam enlists in the army while still underage. Though the hardness his father instilled in him helps him make it out of World War I alive, it also prevents him from contending with the emotional wounds of war. Back in the United States, Sam moves to Chicago to begin a career as a newspaperman that will bring him close to the major historical turns of the twentieth century. There he meets his wife and has a son, whose fate counters Sam's at almost every turn. As he contemplates his relationships—with his parents, his brothers in arms, his wife, his editor, and most importantly, his son—Sam is amazed at what he still has left to learn about himself after all these years. In 1932 Wabash, Illinois, Deborah and Jeremy Cole, estranged since the death of their daughter, try to work out their grief through involvement in family concerns and the labor movement. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author "shares his insights into—and passion for—the creation and experience of fiction with total openness" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Robert Olen Butler, author of *Perfume River*, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, and *A Small Hotel*, teaches graduate fiction at Florida State University—his version of literary boot camp. In *From Where You Dream*, Butler reimagines the process of writing as emotional rather than intellectual, and tells writers how to achieve the

dreamspace necessary for composing honest, inspired fiction. Proposing that fiction is the exploration of the human condition with yearning as its compass, Butler reinterprets the traditional tools of the craft using the dynamics of desire. Offering a direct view into the mind and craft of a literary master, *From Where You Dream* is an invaluable tool for the novice and experienced writer alike. "Incisive and provocative, Butler's tutorials are a must for anyone even thinking about writing fiction, and readers, too, will benefit from his passionate exhortations." —Booklist Now available in an elegant paperback, Robert Olen Butler's acclaimed collection, *Severance*, depicts the final thoughts of people as they are losing their heads. Celebrated as "glorious" (*Los Angeles Times*), these fascinating stories reveal "the limitless will of the author's imagination" (*New York Times*). Here are the imagined ultimate words of famous and invented figures—Medusa, Sir Walter Raleigh, Anne Boleyn, Jayne Mansfield, and a chicken, beheaded for Sunday dinner. Amy Dickerson, a star employee of a renowned auction house, falls in love with Alain Bouchard, a cultured French business mogul, but their seemingly perfect relationship slowly begins to crumble, forcing Amy to make a startling discovery. A collection of short stories inspired by tabloid headlines features such tales as "Boy Born With Elvis Tattoo," "Titanic Victim Speaks Through Water Bed," and "Woman Uses Glass Eye to Spy on Cheating Husband." A Study Guide for Robert Olen Butler's "Good Scent from a Strange Mountain," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Short Stories for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Short Stories for Students* for all of your research needs. A powerful novel of a family haunted by the aftershocks of the Vietnam War—from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*. "You share a war in one way. You pass it on in another." Passionate student activism brought Robert Quinlan together with his future wife during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War. But since then, the

long-married Florida university professors have grown apart. Their crumbling relationship is mirrored by Robert's estrangement from his brother . . . alienated by the same controversial war. Now, with their father—a World War II veteran—lying close to death, the rift in the family is sorely tested when Robert's brother refuses to put the past aside and return to say goodbye. And when Robert mistakes a homeless stranger for a fellow Vietnam veteran, his unstable presence in their lives will further stir the emotional scars that shattered the Quinlan men . . . and take its toll on those they love most. "Butler's Faulknerian shuttling back and forth across the decades has less to do with literary pyrotechnics than with cutting to the chase. *Perfume River* hits its marks with a high-stakes intensity . . . Butler's prose is fluid, and his handling of his many time-shifts as lucid as it is urgent. His descriptive gifts don't extend just to his characters' traits or their Florida and New Orleans settings, but to the history he's addressing." —Michael Upchurch, *New York Times Book Review*

"Butler moves easily among his characters to create a composite portrait of a family that has been wrecked by choices made during the Vietnam War." —Beth Nguyen, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The story builds its force with great care . . . Its power is that we want to keep reading. The entire journey is masterfully rendered, Butler lighting a path back into the cave, completely unafraid." —Benjamin Busch, *Washington Post*

"Butler greatly enlarges our sense of what the Vietnam War cost to a generation . . . *Perfume River* tells a human story that sums up an entire era of American life." —Miami Herald

"Butler's assured, elegant novel . . . speaks eloquently of the way the past bleeds into the present, history reverberates through individual lives, and mortality challenges our perceptions of ourselves and others." —Publishers Weekly

"A heartbreaking story of fathers and sons and their expectations and disappointments . . . *Perfume River* is a powerful work that asks profound questions about betrayal and loyalty." —BookPage

"A surprisingly sweet and droll first-person account of the vexed attempts of an alien to understand the bafflingly



unpredictable human race." —Kirkus Reviews *The Pulitzer Prize-winning author "raises fin de siècle literature to new heights and turns inevitability on its head" in a novel of an alien named Desi (Publishers Weekly). For decades, Desi has kept a quiet vigil above the Earth while studying the confusing, fascinating, and frustrating primary species of our planet, occasionally venturing to the planet's surface to hear their thoughts and experience their memories using his empathic powers. Now, on December 31, 2000, he prepares for the final phase of his mysterious mission, which begins when he beams a tour bus bound for a Louisiana casino aboard his ship. The twelve passengers will be the last humans whose lives he will experience before he positions his spaceship in full and irrefutable view of the people of Earth and descends to the planet's surface to proclaim his presence to all of humanity at the turn of the millennium. Poignant, funny, and charming, Mr. Spaceman is filled with unexpected twists and turns, a tribute to the powers of love and understanding and the essence of what it means to be human. "Funny and humane, entertaining and touching."* —The New York Times

A US war correspondent is plunged into the Mexican civil war in "a whip-smart tale of intrigue and espionage" by the Pulitzer Prize winner (CNN.com). Undaunted by enemy territory and sweltering heat, American journalist Christopher "Kit" Marlowe Cobb has arrived in Mexico in the spring of 1914. The country is rocked by civil war, the American invasion of Vera Cruz, and the controversial presidency of Victoriano Huerta, *El Chacal (The Jackal)*. Marlowe thinks he's found his first big headline in the attempted assassination of a priest—the bullet miraculously rebounding off the holy man's cross. Employing a young pickpocket to help him identify the sniper, Cobb is soon led into a far more dangerous story: German officials, with ammunition ships docked in the port, are showing up in the city. When Cobb falls for a young Mexican laundress, he believes he's found a soft respite from hard news. If only she were as innocent as she seems. A sweeping saga of espionage, action, and romance set at the dawn of World War I, Robert Olen Butler kick-starts his rousing series with "a

thinking person's thriller, the kind of exotic adventure that, in better days, would have been filmed by Sam Peckinpah" (The Washington Post). "Pancho Villa, fiery señoritas, and Germans up to no good—Robert Olen Butler is having fun . . . and readers will too." —Joseph Kanon, New York Times—bestselling author of *The Good German* "[A] high-spirited adventure." —The New York Times Book Review "Going off to war with Kit Cobb is as bracing and fun as it used to be in George MacDonald Fraser's *Flashman* books, or in Perez-Reverte's *Captain Alatriste* novels." —Dan Fesperman, Hammett Prize-winning author of *The Double Game* From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author comes this "fascinating . . . intense portrayal of the collapse of a marriage . . . [that] delivers a surprising charge" (Jane Smiley, *The Washington Post*). An *O, The Oprah Magazine* "Summer Reading List" pick Set in contemporary New Orleans but working its way back in time, *A Small Hotel* chronicles the relationship between Michael and Kelly Hays, who have decided to separate after twenty-four years of marriage. The book begins on the day that the Hays are to finalize their divorce. Kelly is due to be in court, but instead she drives from her home in Pensacola, Florida, across the panhandle to New Orleans. There she checks into Room 303 at the Olivier House in the city's French Quarter—the hotel where she and Michael fell in love some twenty-five years earlier. She now finds herself about to make a decision that will forever affect her, Michael, and their nineteen-year-old daughter, Samantha. "From each spouse's point of view we witness the feelings that didn't break the surface at the time, but never went away." —The New York Times "Intelligent, deeply moving . . . *A Small Hotel* is a masterful story that will remind readers once again why Robert Olen Butler has been called 'the best living American writer.'" —Fort Worth Star-Telegram Ira is trying to come to terms with his life. To do so, he must examine his sexuality and its profound hold on him. From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*. Named Peacemaker of the Year in the 2022 Independent Publisher (IPPY) Book Awards In the first anthology of its kind, *Robert Olen Butler and Phong Nguyen*

assemble an astounding collection of stories that cause readers to contemplate war, peace, and social justice in a new light. The fourteen stories featured in this volume explore the varied and often unexpected outcomes of violence. The authors explore the tragedies that occur closer to home--not on military battlefields but rather in places that are never meant to be battlefields, like schools and churches. The fiction reveals the violence that renders our most sacred and seemingly safest of places vulnerable. Not a utopian project, this book asks whether literature has a role in furthering the ongoing pursuit of peace and justice for all. While exploring tragedy, these stories also offer hope for healing, illuminating how people can move forward from the moments when their lives change and how they can regain and reshape safe spaces to find solace.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize: "Uncannily perceptive stories written by an American from the viewpoint of Vietnamese citizens transplanted to Louisiana" (People). *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* is Robert Olen Butler's Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of lyrical and poignant stories about the aftermath of the Vietnam War and its enduring impact on the Vietnamese. Written in a soaring prose, Butler's haunting and powerful stories blend Vietnamese folklore and contemporary American realities, creating a vibrant panorama that is epic in its scope. This new edition includes two previously uncollected stories—"Missing" and "Salem"—that brilliantly complete the collection's narrative journey, returning to the jungles of Vietnam to explore the experiences of a former Vietcong soldier and an American MIA. "Deeply affecting . . . A brilliant collection of stories about storytellers whose recited folklore radiates as implicit prayer . . . One of the strongest collections I've read in ages." —Ann Beattie "A novel that explores the darker side of human nature while making you laugh so hard iced tea almost comes out your nose." —The Tampa Tribune

One of American literature's brightest stars and author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* reimagines the underworld in an uproarious novel. Its main character, Hatcher McCord, is an evening news presenter who

has found himself in Hell and is struggling to explain his bad fortune. He's not the only one to suffer this fate—in fact, he's surrounded by an outrageous cast of characters, including Humphrey Bogart, William Shakespeare, and almost all of the popes and most of the US presidents. The question may be not who is in Hell, but who isn't. McCord is living with Anne Boleyn in the afterlife but their happiness is, of course, constantly derailed by her obsession with Henry VIII (and the removal of her head at rather inopportune moments). One day McCord meets Dante's Beatrice, who believes there is a way out of Hell, and the next morning, during an exclusive on-camera interview with Satan, McCord realizes that Satan's omniscience, which he has always credited for the perfection of Hell's torments, may be a mirage—and Butler is off on a madcap romp about good, evil, free will, and the possibility of escape. Butler's depiction of Hell is original, intelligent, and fiercely comic, a book Dante might have celebrated. "I'll never stop believing it: Robert Olen Butler is the best living American writer, period." —Jeff Guinn, Fort Worth Star-Telegram In 1932 Wabash, Illinois, Deborah and Jeremy Cole, estranged since the death of their daughter, try to work out their grief through involvement in family concerns and the labor movement

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