
Unless Carol Shields

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Duet Open Road Media

Denise's stepdaughter Greta is a med student who swims ocean marathons and runs off to Africa with a family friend four times her age—and also battles an eating disorder. When Judy, Greta's birth mother, returns from Japan (to which she ran off herself, with a Mexican tennis pro) and tries to ingratiate herself with the husband and daughter she left, Denise must navigate their complicated relationships with each other while attempting to bring Greta's addiction to light—and learning how to live more charitably.

Collected Stories McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP

Never has contemporary fiction been more widely discussed and

passionately analysed; recent years have seen a huge growth in the number of reading groups and in the interest of a non-academic readership in the discussion of how novels work. Drawing on his weekly Guardian column, 'Elements of Fiction', John Mullan examines novels mostly of the last ten years, many of which have become firm favourites with reading groups. He reveals the rich resources of novelistic technique, setting recent fiction alongside classics of the past. Nick Hornby's adoption of a female narrator is compared to Daniel Defoe's; Ian McEwan's use of weather is set against Austen's and Hardy's; Carole Shield's chapter divisions are likened to Fanny Burney's. Each section shows how some basic element of fiction is used. Some topics (like plot, dialogue, or location) will appear familiar to most novel readers; others (metanarrative, prolepsis, amplification) will open readers' eyes to new ways of understanding and appreciating the writer's craft. *How Novels Work* explains how the pleasures of novel reading often come from the formal ingenuity of the novelist. It is an entertaining and stimulating exploration of that ingenuity.

Addressed to anyone who is interested in the close reading of fiction, it makes visible techniques and effects we are often only half-aware of as we read. It shows that literary criticism is something that all fiction enthusiasts can do. Contemporary novels discussed include: Monica Ali's *Brick Lane*; Martin Amis's *Money*; Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin*; A.S. Byatt's *Possession*; Jonathan Coe's *The Rotters' Club*; J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*; Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*; Don DeLillo's *Underworld*; Michel Faber's *The Crimson Petal and the White*; Ian Fleming's *From Russia with Love*; Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections*; Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*; Patricia Highsmith's *Ripley under Ground*; Alan Hollinghurst's *The Spell*; Nick Hornby's *How to Be Good*; Ian McEwan's *Atonement*; John le Carré's *The Constant Gardener*; Andrea Levy's *Small Island*; David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas*; Andrew O'Hagan's *Personality*; Orhan Pamuk's *My Name Is Red*; Ann Patchett's *Bel Canto*; Ruth Rendell's *Adam and Eve and Pinch Me*; Philip Roth's *The Human Stain*; Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything Is Illuminated*; Carol Shields's *Unless*; Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*; Muriel Spark's *Aiding and Abetting*; Graham Swift's *Last Orders*; Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*; William Trevor's *The Hill Bachelors*; and Richard Yates's *Revolutionary Road*.
A Life Harper Collins

Throughout her literary and critical career, Canadian writer Carol Shields (1935 – 2003) resisted simple categorization. Her novels are elegant puzzles that confront the reader with the ambiguity of meaning and narrative, yet their position within Shields' critical feminist project has, until now, been obscured. In *Carol Shields and the Writer-Critic*, Brenda

Beckman-Long illuminates that project through the study of Shields' extensive oeuvre, including her fiction and criticism. Beckman-Long brings depth to her analysis through close readings of six novels, including the award-winning *The Stone Diaries*. Elliptical, open-ended, and concerned with women writing about women, these novels reveal Shields' critique of dominant masculine discourses and her deep engagement with the long tradition of women's life writing. Beckman-Long's original archival research attests to Shields' preoccupation with the changing efforts of waves of feminist activism and writing. A much needed reappraisal of Shields' innovative work, *Carol Shields and the Writer-Critic* contributes to the scholarship on life writing and autobiography, literary criticism, and feminist and critical theory.

Thirteen Hands Blizzard Pub Limited

Orange Prize and Pulitzer Prize-winning Carol Shields' tender, funny and wonderfully insightful portrait of two sisters struggling to rediscover themselves amidst the perplexing swirl of family life. Judith is a biographer whose life is subsumed by others: her eccentric husband, her secretive children and the Victorian novelist who is her subject. Her sister Charleen is a single mother and lapsed poet. While Judith analyses the minutiae of lives past and present, Charleen battles her own past ghosts and wonders desperately what her life has been about. As their mother's wedding approaches, both sisters must come to terms with the paths they have chosen. Originally published as two companion novels: *Small Ceremonies* and *The Box Garden*.

The Republic of Love Penguin

With the profound maturity and exquisite eye for detail that never failed to capture readers of her prize-winning novels, Carol Shields dazzles with these remarkable stories. Generous, delightful, and acutely observed, this essential collection illuminates the miracles that grace our lives; it will continue to enchant for years to come.

The Girls of Slender Means (New Directions Classic)
Vintage Canada

Dazzling novel from Carol Shields, author of 'The Stone Diaries', winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and 'Larry's Party', winner of the Orange Prize.

HarperCollins UK

Deana Perry, the daughter of a coal miner, and Will Brinson, the son of a wealthy coal operator, have tried to leave the shadows of their powerful fathers and the painful secrets of Ash Grove, Kentucky, far behind them. But now Cleave Brinson is dead and Wayman Perry is dying. Will, who wonders if his father was capable of murder, finds himself drawn back to Ash Grove determined to unravel the mystery of his mother's death. Deana has managed to build a life for herself and her daughter Sophie. But when she returns to Ash Grove, will their fragile happiness be able to survive the truth? Lee Smith writes, "Wanda Fries goes straight for the heart in Ash Grove, a story of lost love and terrible secrets in an Appalachian mining town. Both gritty and poetic, real and transcendent, Ash Grove is a literary page-turner, heralding a major new talent. Wanda Fries writes from deep within the contemporary culture of Appalachia, and she gets it all just exactly right." From New Southerner, in a review by Christina Lovin--"A tale spun out as if from a reel of dynamite fuse, Fries' Ash Grove winds a precarious, rocky way through darkness, back into the light. Like the mine shafts that pierce the peaks around Ash Grove, through the deft storytelling of the author, the plots twist and turn, narrowing into blackness and dead

ends. Characters disappear around corners, and then reappear as suddenly as a coal train around a hairpin bend. A delicious delving into the stony black heart of a town and its long-held secrets, Ash Grove provides that rollercoaster feeling one has on a fast ride along a mountain two-lane: frightening, exhilarating, but in the end, awfully satisfying." Silas House--"Ash Grove is a beautiful novel."

The Collected Poetry of Carol Shields New Directions Publishing

First comparative study of urban fiction in the US and Canada investigates representations of the urban after postmodernism in two New York and two Toronto novels.

A Novel Biblioasis

" Nothing short of astonishing. " — New Yorker " A thing of beauty—lucidly written, artfully ordered, riddled with riddles and undergirded with dark layers of philosophical meditations. " — Los Angeles Times For all of her life, 44 year old Reta Winters has enjoyed the useful monotony of happiness: a loving family, good friends, growing success as a writer of light 'summertime' fiction. But this placid existence is cracked wide open when her beloved eldest daughter, Norah, drops out to sit on a gritty street corner, silent but for the sign around her neck that reads 'GOODNESS.' Reta's search for what drove her daughter to such a desperate statement turns into an

unflinching and surprisingly funny meditation on where we find meaning and hope. The final book from Pulitzer Prize-winner Carol Shields, *Unless*, is a harrowing but ultimately consoling story of one family's anguish and healing, proving Shields's mastery of extraordinary fictions about ordinary life.

Unless by Carol Shields Camden House

A moving and eloquent novel that has confirmed Marion Halligan's status as one of Australia's finest writers.

A Celibate Season Harper Collins

A Memoir of Friendship is a rich collection of the letters Shields and Howard exchanged from 1975 to 2003. Carol Shields took her place on the world literary stage when she won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Stone Diaries*. Blanche Howard, 22 years older than Carol and herself a published, award-winning author, became Shields's mentor and confidante. Written with humour and insight, this window into their daily lives explores their friendship, their disappointment and joys, their ambitions, and their thoughts on other writers and the craft of writing.

The Letters Between Carol Shields and Blanche Howard Borealis

From the acclaimed, award-winning author—when a dinner-party guest named Miles locks himself in an upstairs room and refuses to come out, he sets off a media frenzy. He also sets in motion a mesmerizing puzzle of a novel, one that harnesses acrobatic verbal playfulness to a truly

affecting story. Miles communicates only by cryptic notes slipped under the door. We see him through the eyes of four people who barely know him, ranging from a precocious child to a confused elderly woman. But while the characters' wit and wordplay soar, their story remains profoundly grounded. As it probes our paradoxical need for both separation and true connection, *There but for the* balances cleverness with compassion, the surreal with the deeply, movingly real, in a way that only Ali Smith can.

Unless McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP

The stories collected here offer an entrancing look at some of the various miracles of everyday life, the quirks of chance and coincidence, life's setbacks and improvisations. Carol Shields deftly draws us into the lives of a broad range of sharply observed characters, from the brilliant young violinist smothered by an overprotective family, to the elderly widow mowing her lawn while a long, passionate life buzzes around in her memory. Blending wit and compassion, Shields illuminates moments when ordinary people face extraordinary circumstances, declarations of love and revelations that transform their lives. Sharp, skeptical and sympathetic, this collection presents Shields at her inimitable best in twenty-one miracles of the storyteller's art.

The Booklover's Guide to New Orleans University of Toronto Press

A vibrant new novel from Penelope Lively—a wry, wise story about the surprising ways lives intersect. Look out for Penelope Lively's new book, *The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories*. When Charlotte Rainsford, a retired schoolteacher, is accosted by a petty thief on a London street, the consequences ripple across the lives of

acquaintances and strangers alike. A marriage unravels after an illicit love affair is revealed through an errant cell phone message; a posh yet financially strapped interior designer meets a business partner who might prove too good to be true; an old-guard historian tries to recapture his youthful vigor with an ill-conceived idea for a TV miniseries; and a middle-aged central European immigrant learns to speak English and reinvents his life with the assistance of some new friends. Through a richly conceived and colorful cast of characters, Penelope Lively explores the powerful role of chance in people's lives and deftly illustrates how our paths can be altered irrevocably by someone we will never even meet. Brought to life in her hallmark graceful prose and full of keen insights into human nature, *How It All Began* is an engaging, contemporary tale that is sure to strike a chord with her legion of loyal fans as well as new readers. A writer of rare wisdom, elegance, and humor, Lively is a consummate storyteller whose gifts are on full display in this masterful work.

Various Miracles Unless

An critical examination of the work of the Canadian writer Susanna Moodie including analysis of *Life in the Clearings*, *Roughing It in the Bush*, *Waiting for Dead Men's Shoes*, and *Matrimonial Speculations*.

Jane Austen Open Road Media

The story of a woman dancing on the edge of a difficult life Ever since her husband left her—seemingly vanishing into thin air—Charleen Forrest has supported herself and her fifteen-year-old son on what she earns as an obscure

poet and part-time gofer for an even more obscure scientific journal. But when her estranged mother remarries, prompting an unplanned reunion, Charleen finds herself moving out of her familiar existence. A dazzling counterpoint to Shields' s debut novel, *Small Ceremonies*, imbued with her scathing wit and dead-on observations, *The Box Garden* is an unforgettable portrait of a woman who finds transformation—and happiness—where she least expects it.

A Novel Vintage Canada

With the same sensitivity and artfulness that are the trademarks of her award-winning novels, Carol Shields explores the life of a writer whose own novels have engaged and delighted readers for the past two hundred years. In *Jane Austen*, Shields follows this superb and beloved novelist from her early family life in Steventown to her later years in Bath, her broken engagement, and her intense relationship with her sister Cassandra. She reveals both the very private woman and the acclaimed author behind the enduring classics *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma*. With its fascinating insights into the writing process from an award – winning novelist, Carol Shields' s magnificent biography of Jane Austen is also a compelling meditation on how great fiction is created.

Dressing Up for the Carnival Viking

With a Foreword by the Author “ Before becoming a playwright I was a novelist, and one who was often impatient with the

requisite description of weather or scenery or even with the business of moving people from room to room. I was more interested in the sound of people talking to each other, reacting to each other, or leaving silences for others to fall into." -- Carol Shields

From one of Canada's most beloved authors comes a collection of four works written for the stage, including her most popular and highly acclaimed play *Thirteen Hands*. The theatrical form allows Carol Shields' strength as a master of dialogue to shine at its brightest, as she returns to themes she explores in her prose: love, family, friendship, and the hidden meanings and larger truths found beneath the surface of the minutiae of daily life. *Thirteen Hands and Other Plays* is an exhilarating introduction to Shields' considerable achievements as a playwright. *Departures and Arrivals* (1990) dramatizes how lives are heightened and enlarged when taken within the frame of public spaces -- airports, train stations, public streets -- so that we all become, in a sense, actors. *Thirteen Hands* (1993), a musical, valorizes a consistently overlooked group in our society, "the blue-rinse set" -- also known as "the white glove brigade" or "the bridge club biddies" -- and has had the strongest professional run of all Shields' plays. *Fashion, Power, Guilt and the Charity of Families* (1995), written with her daughter, Catherine Shields, interrogates the ambivalence felt towards families, the drive we all share to find or create some kind of family, and the equally strong desire to escape the family's fury. *Anniversary* (1998), written with Dave Williamson, is a domestic drama of discontented, middle class suburbanites. One couple in the play are married and pretending to be close to separation. Another couple, who are separated, are pretending to be married. The additional irony is that the separated couple are still emotionally together, while the married couple have already emotionally separated.

A Novel Vintage Canada

A treasury of more than 250 epigraphs gathered from 500 years of literature explores how carefully selected quotes, lyrics and poems set the tone for subsequent reading experiences and inform readers about author sensibilities. 30,000 first printing.

Stories HarperCollins UK

The idea for *Dropped Threads: What We Aren't Told* came up between Carol Shields and longtime friend Marjorie Anderson over lunch. It appeared that after decades of feminism, the "women's network" still wasn't able to prevent women being caught off-guard by life. There remained subjects women just didn't talk about, or felt they couldn't talk about. Holes existed in the fabric of women's discourse, and they needed examining. They asked thirty-four women to write about moments in life that had taken them by surprise or experiences that received too little discussion, and then they compiled these pieces into a book. It became an instant number one bestseller, a book clubs' favourite and a runaway success. *Dropped Threads*, says Anderson, "tapped into a powerful need to share personal stories about life's defining moments of surprise and silence." Readers recognized themselves in these honest and intimate stories; there was something universal in these deeply personal accounts. Other stories and suggestions poured in. *Dropped Threads* would clearly be an ongoing project.

Like the first volume, *Dropped Threads 2* features stories by well-known novelists and journalists such as Jane Urquhart, Susan Swan and Shelagh Rogers, but also many excellent new writers including teachers, mothers, a civil servant, a therapist. This triumphant follow-up received a starred first review in *Quill and Quire* magazine, which called it "compassionate and unflinching." The book deals with such difficult topics as loss, depression, disease, widowhood, violence, and coming to terms with death. Several stories address some of the darker sides of motherhood: - A mother describes how, while sleep-deprived and in a miserable marriage, she is shocked to find infanticide crossing her mind. - Another woman recounts a memory of her alcoholic mother demanding the children prove their loyalty in a terrifying way. - A woman desperate for children refers to the bleak truth as: "Another Christmas of feeling barren." Narrating the fertility treatment she undergoes, the hopes dashed, she is amusing in retrospect and yet brutally honest. While they deal with loss and trauma, the pieces show the path to some kind of acceptance, showing the authors' determination to learn from pain and pass on the wisdom gained. The volume also covers the rewards of learning to be a parent, choosing to remain single, or fitting in as a lesbian parent. It explores how women feel when something is missing in a friendship, how they experience

discrimination, relationship challenges, and other emotions less easily defined but just as close to the bone: - Alison Wearing in "My Life as a Shadow" subtly describes allowing her personality to be subsumed by her boyfriend's. - Pamela Mala Sinha tells how, after suffering a brutal attack, she felt self-hatred and a longing for retribution. - Dana McNairn talks of her uncomfortable marriage to a man from a different social background: "I wanted to fit in with this strange, wondrous family who never raised their voices, never swore and never threw things at one another." Humour, a confiding tone, and beautiful writing elevate and enliven even the darkest stories. Details bring scenes vividly to life, so we feel we are in the room with Barbara Defago when the doctor tells her she has breast cancer, coolly dividing her life into a 'before and after.' Lucid, reflective and poignant, *Dropped Threads 2* is for anyone interested in women's true stories.