

sarah orne jewett short stories

Sarah Orne Jewett Short Stories: Exploring the Gentle Art of New England Life

sarah orne jewett short stories offer a unique window into the quiet rhythms of 19th-century New England life. Known for her delicate prose and keen observations, Jewett's tales capture the subtle beauty of rural settings and the intricate nature of human relationships. If you've ever been drawn to literature that celebrates the everyday and finds poetry in simplicity, exploring her work is a rewarding experience.

Jewett's short stories stand out not only for their vivid portrayal of local color but also for their pioneering role in American literary regionalism. Through her narratives, readers are invited into small-town communities where the landscape and the characters' internal worlds are intertwined. Let's dive deeper into the charm and significance of sarah orne jewett short stories, highlighting some of her most notable works and the lasting impact she's had on American literature.

The Essence of Sarah Orne Jewett's Storytelling

Jewett's stories are often characterized by their gentle tone, nuanced characterizations, and immersive sense of place. Unlike many contemporaries who focused on grand events or dramatic plots, Jewett found richness in the ordinary — a quiet afternoon, a neighborly visit, or the changing seasons.

Regionalism and Local Color

One of the defining features of sarah orne jewett short stories is her commitment to regionalism. This literary movement emphasizes the detailed depiction of a particular area's customs, dialect, and landscape. Jewett's New England setting is almost a character in itself, shaping the lives and attitudes of the people who inhabit it.

By capturing the dialects and everyday activities of Maine's coastal villages, Jewett preserved a slice of American culture at a time when industrialization and urbanization threatened to erase these rural ways of life. This focus on local color not only enriches the narrative but also provides valuable cultural documentation.

Subtle Character Development

Jewett's stories often revolve around women and their inner lives, exploring themes of friendship, solitude, and connection. Her characters are rarely larger-than-life heroes; instead, they are ordinary individuals with complex emotions and quiet strength.

For example, in many of her tales, older women serve as guardians of tradition and

wisdom, offering a bridge between past and future generations. This approach makes her work resonate deeply with readers who appreciate character-driven stories that unfold naturally.

Notable Sarah Orne Jewett Short Stories

While Jewett wrote numerous stories throughout her career, several stand out for their artistry and enduring appeal. These works showcase the range and depth of her storytelling.

"A White Heron"

Perhaps Jewett's most famous short story, "A White Heron," beautifully encapsulates her thematic concerns. It tells the story of a young girl, Sylvia, who lives in the countryside and encounters a hunter searching for a rare bird. The story delicately balances themes of nature, innocence, and moral choice.

What makes "A White Heron" especially compelling is Jewett's vivid descriptions of the natural world and the protagonist's internal conflict. The story invites readers to consider the relationship between humans and nature, a topic that remains relevant today.

"The Country of the Pointed Firs"

Although technically a novella, "The Country of the Pointed Firs" reads like a series of interconnected short stories. It paints a portrait of a fictional coastal village in Maine through the eyes of a visiting writer. The narrative is rich with detailed character sketches and reflections on community life.

This work highlights Jewett's skill at blending narrative and atmosphere, creating a tapestry of voices and experiences that linger long after reading.

Other Stories Worth Exploring

- **"Martha's Lady"**: A tender story about love and loss in a small town.
- **"The Only Rose"**: Explores themes of friendship and personal growth.
- **"Deephaven"**: Focuses on the changing seasons and the passage of time in a rural community.

Each story is imbued with Jewett's hallmark sensitivity and attention to detail, making them worthwhile reads for anyone interested in classic American literature.

Why Sarah Orne Jewett's Short Stories Still Matter

In today's fast-paced world, Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories offer a refreshing pause. They remind us to appreciate the small moments and the natural environment around us. Her writing encourages mindfulness and empathy, qualities that are timeless in their appeal.

Influence on American Literature

Jewett's work helped pave the way for later writers who focused on regional settings and character-driven narratives, such as Willa Cather and Eudora Welty. By validating the experiences of rural communities, Jewett expanded the scope of American fiction beyond urban centers and grand historical events.

Literary Style and Techniques

Jewett's prose is notable for its simplicity and clarity. She avoids ornate language, instead opting for an economy of words that conveys mood and setting with precision. Her use of symbolism, particularly in relation to nature, adds depth without overwhelming the narrative.

For students and writers, examining her style can offer valuable lessons in how to create evocative stories that resonate emotionally without relying on plot-heavy structures.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating Jewett's Stories

To fully enjoy Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories, consider the following approaches:

- **Read Slowly:** Her stories reward a leisurely pace, allowing you to savor descriptions and subtle emotional shifts.
- **Pay Attention to Setting:** Notice how the environment influences characters' moods and decisions.
- **Reflect on Themes:** Think about how themes like nature, community, and gender roles are presented.
- **Explore Historical Context:** Understanding 19th-century New England can deepen your appreciation of the stories' nuances.

Jewett's work is rich with layers that unfold over multiple readings, making her stories ideal for book clubs or literature classes.

Where to Find Sarah Orne Jewett's Short Stories

Many of Jewett's stories are available in public domain collections, making them accessible online through platforms like Project Gutenberg or Internet Archive. Additionally, numerous anthologies of American short stories include her work, often with helpful introductions and notes.

For those interested in print editions, look for collections such as:

- *The Country of the Pointed Firs and Other Stories*
- *A White Heron and Other Stories*
- *The Complete Short Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett*

These editions often provide critical commentary that enhances understanding of her literary contributions.

Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories continue to captivate readers with their quiet charm, vivid sense of place, and insightful portrayal of human nature. Whether you're a seasoned literature enthusiast or just beginning to explore classic American fiction, her work offers a gentle yet profound reading experience that lingers long after the final page.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Sarah Orne Jewett?

Sarah Orne Jewett was an American novelist and short story writer known for her local color works set in New England, particularly Maine.

What are some of Sarah Orne Jewett's most famous short stories?

Some of Jewett's most famous short stories include "A White Heron," "The Lady's Maid's Bell," and "Martha's Lady."

What themes are commonly explored in Sarah Orne

Jewett's short stories?

Jewett's short stories often explore themes such as rural life, nature, community, female friendship, and the simplicity and beauty of everyday experiences.

How does Sarah Orne Jewett depict rural New England in her short stories?

Jewett depicts rural New England with rich, detailed descriptions that emphasize the close connection between people and their natural environment, highlighting local customs and dialects.

What literary style is Sarah Orne Jewett known for in her short stories?

Jewett is known for her use of literary regionalism or local color writing, focusing on the setting, dialect, and customs of a particular region.

Why is "A White Heron" considered an important short story by Sarah Orne Jewett?

"A White Heron" is important because it beautifully illustrates Jewett's themes of nature, innocence, and moral choice, and is celebrated for its lyrical prose and vivid natural imagery.

Did Sarah Orne Jewett write only short stories or other types of works as well?

In addition to short stories, Jewett wrote novels, essays, and poetry, with her work often centered on New England life and culture.

How did Sarah Orne Jewett influence American literature through her short stories?

Jewett influenced American literature by popularizing regionalism and local color writing, inspiring later writers to explore regional identities and everyday lives with authenticity and empathy.

Are Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories still relevant for readers today?

Yes, her stories remain relevant as they offer timeless insights into human relationships, nature, and community, as well as preserving historical perspectives on rural American life.

Where can one find collections of Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories?

Collections of Jewett's short stories can be found in anthologies of American literature, dedicated volumes like "The Collected Short Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett," and digital archives such as Project Gutenberg.

Additional Resources

Sarah Orne Jewett Short Stories: A Closer Look at Her Literary Legacy

sarah orne jewett short stories represent a significant and enduring contribution to American literature, particularly within the regionalist movement of the late 19th century. Known for their delicate portrayal of New England rural life, Jewett's narratives delve into the intricacies of human relationships, nature, and the passage of time. Her short stories, often celebrated for their lyrical prose and subtle psychological insights, continue to captivate readers and scholars alike, offering a window into a vanished world with timeless themes.

The Essence of Sarah Orne Jewett's Short Stories

Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories are quintessential examples of local color writing, a genre that emphasizes the depiction of specific geographic settings and their inhabitants. Set primarily in coastal Maine, her works skillfully capture the rhythms and nuances of small-town life, blending detailed descriptions of landscape with deeply human characters. Unlike more plot-driven narratives, Jewett's stories often prioritize atmosphere and character study, creating a literary space where the ordinary becomes extraordinary through attentive observation.

Her storytelling is marked by a gentle realism, avoiding sensationalism or overt drama. Instead, Jewett explores themes such as community, isolation, aging, and the connection between people and their environment. This restrained yet evocative approach enables readers to engage with the emotional and social textures of her characters' lives, fostering empathy and reflection.

Notable Short Stories and Their Impact

Among the many short stories penned by Sarah Orne Jewett, several have garnered particular acclaim for their artistry and thematic depth:

- **"A White Heron":** Perhaps Jewett's most famous short story, it tells the tale of a young girl who must decide whether to reveal the location of a rare white heron to a hunter. The story highlights the tension between innocence and experience, human intrusion in nature, and the moral choices individuals face.

- **"The Foreigner"**: This narrative explores themes of belonging and cultural difference as a stranger arrives in a rural community, prompting reflections on identity and acceptance.
- **"Martha's Lady"**: Focusing on themes of loss and memory, this story delves into the life of a woman whose past and present intermingle in subtle ways, showcasing Jewett's skill in portraying internal landscapes.

These stories, among others, exemplify Jewett's ability to intertwine the personal with the universal, creating works that resonate beyond their specific settings.

Stylistic Features and Literary Techniques

Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories are distinguished by several stylistic features that contribute to their enduring appeal:

Lyrical and Descriptive Prose

Jewett's writing is renowned for its poetic quality. Her descriptions of nature are vivid yet restrained, often serving as metaphors for the emotional states of her characters. This lyrical style enhances the immersive quality of her narratives, inviting readers to experience the sensory world of coastal Maine intimately.

Focus on Character over Plot

Unlike conventional short stories that rely heavily on plot twists or climaxes, Jewett's tales prioritize character development and mood. The subtle interactions and internal reflections of her protagonists drive the narrative forward, offering insights into human nature and social dynamics.

Use of Dialect and Regional Speech

To enhance authenticity, Jewett incorporates local dialects and speech patterns, a hallmark of the local color genre. This linguistic detail enriches the texture of her stories and preserves the cultural nuances of the communities she depicts.

Comparative Context: Jewett Among Her

Contemporaries

In the landscape of 19th-century American literature, Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories stand alongside those of contemporaries like Kate Chopin, Henry James, and Edith Wharton, albeit with distinctive regionalist sensibilities. While Chopin often emphasized feminist themes and psychological complexity, and James focused on the interplay between American and European cultures, Jewett's work remains firmly rooted in the American Northeast's rural milieu.

Compared to her contemporaries, Jewett's stories may appear understated, yet this subtlety is a strength. Her nuanced portrayals provide a counterbalance to more overtly dramatic narratives of the era, enriching the literary canon with perspectives grounded in everyday life and the natural world.

Pros and Cons of Jewett's Narrative Approach

- **Pros:**

- Intimate and immersive depiction of place and community
- Rich, poetic language that enhances mood and theme
- Focus on character depth over sensational plot

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the pacing slow or uneventful
- Limited scope in setting and thematic diversity
- Occasional reliance on regional dialects can be challenging for modern readers

The Enduring Influence of Sarah Orne Jewett's Short Stories

The legacy of Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories extends beyond their historical context. They have influenced generations of writers interested in regionalism, women's perspectives, and nature writing. Modern literary critics often highlight Jewett's

pioneering role in elevating local color to a form of literary art that balances the particular with the universal.

Moreover, her stories continue to be studied for their innovative narrative techniques, especially their nuanced characterization and atmospheric descriptions. In educational settings, Jewett's short stories serve as exemplary texts for examining the interplay between setting, character, and theme, as well as the cultural history of New England.

As contemporary readers seek literature that offers deep connection to place and subtle psychological insight, Sarah Orne Jewett's short stories remain relevant and compelling. They invite readers to slow down, observe, and appreciate the quiet complexity of human experience as shaped by environment and community.

Through her masterful storytelling, Jewett not only preserves the voice of a bygone era but also crafts narratives that transcend time, affirming her place as a vital figure in American literary history.

[Sarah Orne Jewett Short Stories](#)

sarah orne jewett short stories: The Best Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, 1949

sarah orne jewett short stories: [7 Best Short Stories by Sarah Orne Jewett](#) Sarah Orne Jewett, 2019-03-26 Sarah Orne Jewett was an American writer best known for her local color works set along or near the southern seacoast of Maine. Jewett is recognized as an important practitioner of American literary regionalism. Jewett describes the people of Maine with peculiar charm and realism, illuminating their characteristic speech, manners and traditions. Her style sometimes recalls the work of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Join us in these seven short stories chosen by the critic August Nemo and have a good reading! A Winter Courtship Going to Shrewsbury The White Rose Road The Town Poor A Native of Winby Looking Back on Girlhood The Passing of Sister Barsett

sarah orne jewett short stories: The Best Short Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, Willa Cather, 1965

sarah orne jewett short stories: Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, 1994

sarah orne jewett short stories: [The Country of the Pointed Firs](#) Sarah Orne Jewett, 2009-11-13 A sharply observed, affectionate, and unsentimental portrait of life in a Maine fishing village, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* is Sarah Orne Jewett's most enduring work, and commonly regarded as the finest example of American regionalist literature in the nineteenth century. It was originally published in four installments of the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1896; this Broadview Edition is based on the Atlantic serialization and also includes the four other stories set in Dunnet Landing. The critical introduction situates the text in its historical, cultural, and literary milieu, attending to its place in Jewett's oeuvre and in her biography. Appendices include earlier "local color" writing by Jewett and others, Jewett's letters, and contemporary reviews of the novel.

sarah orne jewett short stories: The Best Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett; Selected and Arranged with a Pref Sarah Orne Jewett, 1965

sarah orne jewett short stories: *The Best Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett* Sarah Orne Jewett, 1924

sarah orne jewett short stories: [Deephaven and Selected Stories & Sketches](#) Sarah Orne Jewett, 2022-09-04 In 'Deephaven and Selected Stories & Sketches,' Sarah Orne Jewett constructs a literary mosaic of 19th-century New England life through a collection of vignettes that shimmer with

verisimilitude and quiet intensity. Jewett's narrative style, rooted in the local color movement, lends authenticity to her portrayal of Deephaven, a fictional coastal town in Maine. As a compendium, this edition not only presents the titular novel but also a curation of Jewett's short stories that embellish her literary canvas with the cultured brushstrokes of rural and small-town sensibilities. The discerning reproduction by DigiCat Publishing ensures the preservation of her lyricism, regional dialects, and the intricate characterization that marks Jewett's work as pivotal in American literature's evolution toward realism and naturalism. Sarah Orne Jewett (1849-1909), a daughter of Maine and a pioneer in American literary regionalism, drew deeply from her own experiences to write 'Deephaven and Selected Stories & Sketches.' Her birth and life in South Berwick provided fertile ground for her stories, with her surroundings and the local people infusing her writing with a sense of place and depth of character that is both empathetic and astute. The landscapes of her narratives reflect an innate understanding and appreciation of the community ties and societal undercurrents of the times. This edition is a testament to Jewett's genius in capturing the quintessence of 19th-century New England life. Scholars and readers alike who are interested in the progression of American literature, the illumination of women's voices in the canon, or the illustration of a bygone era through masterful storytelling will find 'Deephaven and Selected Stories & Sketches' a valuable and compelling addition to their collections. Jewett's writing stands as an important cultural artifact, inviting readers to experience the nuanced world she immortalized with such eloquence and grace.

sarah orne jewett short stories: Best Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, 1988 A collection of 17 short stories written by this New England writer from 1847 to 1900.

sarah orne jewett short stories: Short Fiction of Sarah Orne Jewett and Mary Wilkins Freeman Sarah Orne Jewett, Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman, 1979

sarah orne jewett short stories: *A White Heron and Other Stories* Sarah Orne Jewett, 2012-08-28 Wonderfully descriptive prose from distinguished regionalist writer includes 10 tales dealing with female friendships, poverty, and compassion: The Town Poor, Miss Peck's Promotion, The Passing of Sister Barsett, and seven more.

sarah orne jewett short stories: A White Heron, and Other Stories 1886 Sarah Orne Jewett, 2017-09-18 A White Heron is a short story by Sarah Orne Jewett. First published by Houghton, Mifflin and Company in 1886, it was soon collected as the title story in Jewett's anthology *A White Heron and Other Stories*. It follows a young city girl named Sylvia who came to live with her grandmother in the country. She meets a young ornithologist hunter seeking to find a rare bird that he recently spotted in the area. As the story progresses, Sylvia is challenged with whether or not she should tell the hunter she saw the bird. She also discovers her passion for country life and her love and values for the animals that inhabit it. Plot summary[edit] Sylvia (a young girl of nine years old) has come from the city to live in the Maine woods with her grandmother, Mrs. Tilley. As the story begins, Sylvia has been living with her grandmother for nearly a year, learning to adapt to country ways. She helps the old woman by taking over some of the more manual jobs, such as finding Mistress Moolly, the cow, each evening in the fields where she grazes and bringing her home. By means of this and other tasks, along with her explorations in the forest, Sylvia has become a country girl who dearly loves her new home. She has taken to it easily and immerses herself in her new life completely, as evidenced by the description of her journey home each evening with the cow: Their feet were familiar with the path, and it was no matter whether their eyes could see it or not. One evening she is approached by a hunter, who is in the area looking for birds to shoot and preserve for his collection. This young man is searching in particular for the rare white heron, and he is sure that it makes its nest in the vicinity. He accompanies Sylvia on her way with hopes of spending the night at her grandmother's house. Once he has received this invitation, he makes himself at home. After they eat, he says that he will give a sum of money to anyone who can lead him to the white heron. The next day Sylvia accompanies the hunter into the forest as he searches for the bird's nest, but he does not find it. Early the following morning, the girl decides to go out and look for the bird by herself so that she can be sure of showing the hunter its exact location when he awakes. She decides

to climb the tallest tree in the forest so that she can see the entire countryside, and she finds the heron, just as she had thought she would. This is the critical passage of the story. When Sylvia climbs the tree as a bird might, she arrives at an epiphany at the tree's top. High as a bird, she has broken free of the world beneath and becomes the heron. But Sylvia is so affected by her leaf-top observation of the heron and other wildlife that she cannot bring herself to disclose the heron's location to the hunter after all, despite his entreaties. Sylvia knows that she would be awarded much-needed money for directing him to the heron, but she decides that she can play no part in bringing about the bird's death. The hunter eventually departs without his prize. Sylvia grows up to ponder if her choice to conceal the heron's secret was a better choice than to receive the young man's money and friendship. The author states that the treasures Sylvia might have lost are easily forgotten among the splendors of the woodland.... Sarah Orne Jewett (September 3, 1849 - June 24, 1909) was an American novelist, short story writer and poet, best known for her local color works set along or near the southern seacoast of Maine. Jewett is recognized as an important practitioner of American literary regionalism.....

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sarah orne jewett short stories: The Uncollected Short Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, 1971

sarah orne jewett short stories: An Arrow in a Sunbeam Sarah Orne Jewett, C. S. Sleight, Frances Lee, 2017-03-01 This engaging collection of stories features popular fiction from the late nineteenth century, including stories from Sarah Orne Jewett and Frances Lee. Jewett's tale Lady Ferry delves into the uncanny; Lee's contribution to the volume is a charming sketch that details a friendship between a girl and her cat.

sarah orne jewett short stories: The Queen's Twin Sarah Orne Jewett, 2017-03-01 In this, Sarah Orne Jewett's last published collection of short stories, a number of the themes and topics she experimented with over the course of her literary career come to full fruition, including, most notably, the evolving role of women in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

sarah orne jewett short stories: The Life of Nancy (1895). By: Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, 2017-09-18 The Life of Nancy (1895) is a collection of eleven short stories by Sarah Orne Jewett. Following in the tradition of local color fiction, Jewett's stories are defined by their detailed descriptions of all aspects of everyday life in the country locales and fishing-towns in which the stories are set. Plot Summary: The first section of the story is centered on the relationship between Nancy Gale and Tom Aldus throughout their lives. It begins in Boston several months after Tom spent time with Nancy's family in East Rodney, Maine. Tom was forced to spend time on the island as his friend sprained his ankle and could no longer travel. Tom and Nancy share a deep connection, which hints at romance but is never explicitly stated (Tom spends much time emphasizing Nancy's great beauty). This is Nancy's first visit to Boston (she is staying with her Aunt and Uncle Ezra four miles outside of the city). Tom gets permission from Ezra to spend the day with Nancy in the city. He is beguiled by her excitement at the city and helps her purchase gifts for several of her family members back home. She then attends a dance class with Tom's aunt, a woman she finds extremely elegant and poised. Nancy informs Tom that a young woman whom he was involved with in East Rodney the previous summer is now seeing another suitor. As the two say good-bye, Tom hopes they will see each other soon. The second section of the story begins 15 years after their day together in Boston. The two have not spoken this entire time. Tom is now married with children. Tom laments his desire to have written to Nancy many times, once during his engagement and another when he left the US for Europe for an extended period of time. He did, however, send her many books. Tom is traveling to East Rodney to survey land purchased by his father. When he arrives he is excited to see Nancy. He attends a ball and is greeted by Nancy's father who informs him that she has been ill with a serious form of rheumatoid arthritis for quite sometime. She is no longer capable of leaving one room in her house. She spends her days giving dance lessons and giving extra help to students from the local school who are having learning

troubles. She remains the life of the town. Tom is deeply saddened by this information and travels the next day to visit her. Upon seeing her, he is immediately happy and remembers their lifelong friendship (which he thinks has not changed at all). She expresses how happy she is to see him, but does not spend a lot of time complaining of her situation. The next section of the story begins several months later. Tom has now built a new house on his father's land (which he was originally going to sell). There is no longer any mention of his wife or children. He has also purchased Nancy a form of wheel chair, which she uses to leave her house and visit Tom outside in the beautiful weather. Everyone in the town is happy that she is able to move about - even if she can no longer walk. The story ends with Tom and Nancy sharing an emotional moment in which she says there never has been a day when I haven't thought of you. Her last line emphasizes the emotional and possibly romantic bond that the two share, even after so much time has passed.... Sarah Orne Jewett (September 3, 1849 - June 24, 1909) was an American novelist, short story writer and poet, best known for her local color works set along or near the southern seacoast of Maine. Jewett is recognized as an important practitioner of American literary regionalism....

sarah orne jewett short stories: Novels and Stories Sarah Orne Jewett, 1994 Novels and Stories, Deephaven, A Country Doctor, The Country of the Pointed Firs, Dunnet Landing Stories, Selected Stories and Sketches.

sarah orne jewett short stories: The Country of the Pointed Firs by Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, 2019-02-26 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

sarah orne jewett short stories: Tales of New England By: Sarah Orne Jewett Sarah Orne Jewett, 2017-09-21 Jewett comments on Tales of New England From a March 1890 letter to Horace Scudder at The Atlantic (Cary, Letters), 63. I wished to ask you at once if it would not be better to push this book through and let it come out before summer, since it simply makes one of a series, and if I should make up another volume of short stories in the autumn they might get into each other's way and 'trip up!' You see, I betray a sad lack of confidence in my children! You do not express disapproval of the title which I put on the cover: Tales of New England. It says itself well and easily and perhaps will do as well as another, though I was not sure of that at first. You do not think it too ambitious? But what are they Tales of, if not ----? ----! Sarah Orne Jewett (September 3, 1849 - June 24, 1909) was an American novelist, short story writer and poet, best known for her local color works set along or near the southern seacoast of Maine. Jewett is recognized as an important practitioner of American literary regionalism. Jewett's family had been residents of New England for many generations, and Sarah Orne Jewett was born in South Berwick, Maine. Her father was a doctor specializing in obstetrics and diseases of women and children. and Jewett often accompanied him on his rounds, becoming acquainted with the sights and sounds of her native land and its people. As treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, a condition that developed in early childhood, Jewett was sent on frequent walks and through them also developed a love of nature. In later life, Jewett often visited Boston, where she was acquainted with many of the most influential literary figures of her day; but she always returned to South Berwick, small seaports near which were the inspiration for the towns of Deephaven and Dunnet Landing in her stories. Jewett was educated at Miss Olive Rayne's school and then at Berwick Academy, graduating in 1866. She supplemented her education

through an extensive family library. Jewett was never overtly religious, but after she joined the Episcopal church in 1871, she explored less conventional religious ideas. For example, her friendship with Harvard law professor Theophilus Parsons stimulated an interest in the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, an eighteenth-century Swedish scientist and theologian, who believed that the Divine was present in innumerable, joined forms - a concept underlying Jewett's belief in individual responsibility. She published her first important story in the Atlantic Monthly at age 19, and her reputation grew throughout the 1870s and 1880s. Her literary importance arises from her careful, if subdued, vignettes of country life that reflect a contemporary interest in local color rather than plot. Jewett possessed a keen descriptive gift that William Dean Howells called an uncommon feeling for talk - I hear your people. Jewett made her reputation with the novella The Country of the Pointed Firs (1896). A Country Doctor (1884), a novel reflecting her father and her early ambitions for a medical career, and A White Heron (1886), a collection of short stories are among her finest work. Some of Jewett's poetry was collected in Verses (1916), and she also wrote three children's books. Willa Cather described Jewett as a significant influence on her development as a writer, and feminist critics have since championed her writing for its rich account of women's lives and voices.....

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