

poem of the pillow and other stories

Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories: An Intimate Glimpse into Japanese Literature

poem of the pillow and other stories is a phrase that immediately evokes curiosity and a sense of cultural richness. It refers to a collection of short stories by the renowned Japanese author Sei Shōnagon, whose work offers an intimate window into Heian-era Japan. Delving into this collection not only introduces readers to exquisite storytelling but also provides a fascinating glimpse into the aesthetics, emotions, and societal norms of historical Japan. Whether you are an avid reader of classic literature or someone exploring Japanese culture, understanding the significance of Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories can be a rewarding experience.

What Is “Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories”?

“Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories” is a translation and compilation of various narratives centered around love, relationships, and the emotional subtleties of life in ancient Japan. The title itself, “Poem of the Pillow,” hints at intimate and personal reflections, often revolving around romantic encounters. The collection is notable for its delicate prose and poetic sensibility, capturing fleeting moments with elegance and depth.

The stories often explore themes such as unspoken affection, societal constraints, and the bittersweet nature of human connections. These narratives are sometimes infused with humor, melancholy, and keen observations of the human heart, making them timeless in their appeal.

The Historical Context Behind the Stories

To truly appreciate Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories, it's essential to understand the era from which they originate. The Heian period (794 to 1185) was a pinnacle of Japanese court culture, marked by refined aesthetics, elaborate rituals, and a strong emphasis on poetry and literature. During this time, aristocrats communicated through elegant poetry and subtle prose, often coded with layers of meaning.

Authors like Sei Shōnagon and Murasaki Shikibu, contemporaries of the period, crafted works that have influenced Japanese literature for centuries. The intimate tone of the pillow poems reflects the private lives of courtiers, capturing moments that were seldom documented but deeply felt.

The Literary Significance of Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories

The collection stands out for its unique blend of poetry and prose, creating a narrative style that is both lyrical and poignant. This hybrid form allows the author to convey emotions with subtlety, relying on imagery and suggestion rather than overt declarations.

Exploring Themes of Love and Desire

At its core, *Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories* is a meditation on love—its joys, complexities, and often the pain it brings. The stories highlight the nuances of desire, from the thrill of secret meetings to the quiet sorrow of unrequited feelings. This delicate portrayal resonates across cultures and epochs, reminding readers that the experience of love is universal.

Reflection of Social Norms and Gender Roles

Another fascinating aspect is the window these stories provide into gender dynamics during the Heian period. Women, often confined within strict societal expectations, express their inner worlds through poetry and subtle interaction. The stories reveal how personal expression found its way into art and literature despite social constraints.

Why Read *Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories* Today?

Despite its historical setting, *Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories* remains relevant because it touches on timeless human experiences. Modern readers can find parallels between the emotional landscapes of the past and present, making the stories both educational and emotionally engaging.

Appreciating the Art of Subtle Storytelling

In today's fast-paced world, the slow, deliberate unfolding of emotions in these stories offers a refreshing contrast. They encourage mindfulness and appreciation for the unspoken, the hinted, and the imagined. For anyone interested in enhancing their literary palate, this collection is a treasure trove of nuanced storytelling.

Enhancing Cultural Understanding

Reading these stories can deepen one's understanding of Japanese cultural heritage. They shed light on the historical customs, the ceremonial importance of poetry, and the aesthetic values that continue to influence Japanese art and literature today.

Tips for Engaging with Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories

If you're planning to dive into this collection, here are some insights to enrich your reading experience:

- **Take your time:** The stories are subtle and layered; reading slowly allows you to savor the poetic language and underlying emotions.
- **Explore annotated editions:** These can provide historical context, cultural explanations, and interpretations that deepen your understanding.
- **Reflect on the themes:** Consider how the stories relate to modern-day experiences of love, longing, and social expectations.
- **Compare translations:** Different translators bring varying nuances, so exploring multiple versions can offer a broader perspective.

Related Works and Further Reading

For readers fascinated by Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories, exploring related Japanese literary works can enhance appreciation:

The Pillow Book by Sei Shōnagon

While not the same as the pillow poems, The Pillow Book is a classic collection of essays, lists, and anecdotes by the same author. It offers a lively and insightful portrait of Heian court life and complements the themes found in the pillow stories.

The Tale of Genji

Written by Murasaki Shikibu, this epic narrative is often considered the world's first novel. It delves deeply into courtly romance and political intrigue during the Heian period, enriching the context for understanding similar poetic stories.

Impact on Modern Literature and Culture

The influence of Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories extends beyond classical literature.

Contemporary Japanese writers and artists often draw inspiration from these early works, incorporating their themes and aesthetics into modern narratives, films, and visual arts. This enduring legacy highlights the collection's importance not only as a historical artifact but as a living source of creative energy.

Exploring these stories can also inspire writers and poets worldwide to experiment with blending poetry and prose, and to explore intimate human experiences with sensitivity and artistry.

Engaging with *Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories* is like stepping into a delicate world where whispers of the past echo through poetic lines. It invites readers to pause, reflect, and connect with emotions that transcend time and culture. Whether you approach it as a literary exploration or as a cultural journey, this collection offers a uniquely enriching experience that continues to captivate hearts and minds.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories' about?

'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories' is a collection of classical Chinese erotic literature attributed to Li Yu, exploring themes of love, desire, and intimate relationships through poetic and narrative forms.

Who is the author of 'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories'?

The author of 'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories' is Li Yu, a Chinese playwright, novelist, and poet from the late Ming and early Qing dynasty.

What literary style is used in 'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories'?

'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories' employs classical Chinese literary styles, blending poetic elegance with erotic storytelling, often using metaphor and symbolism to depict intimate themes.

Why is 'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories' significant in Chinese literature?

It is significant because it provides insight into the private lives and sensual expressions of people during the late Ming and early Qing periods, showcasing the sophistication and openness of classical Chinese erotic literature.

Are there English translations available for 'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories'?

Yes, there are English translations available that make these classical Chinese erotic stories accessible to a wider audience, often accompanied by scholarly commentary to explain cultural and historical context.

What themes are commonly explored in 'Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories'?

Common themes include romantic love, physical desire, intimacy, the complexities of human relationships, and the interplay between emotional and sensual experiences.

Additional Resources

****Exploring "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories": A Deep Dive into Ihara Saikaku's Masterpiece****

poem of the pillow and other stories is a celebrated work by Ihara Saikaku, a prominent Japanese author from the Edo period. This collection of linked short stories offers a vivid glimpse into the sensual and social lives of early 17th-century Japan, blending eroticism, humor, and keen social observation. As one of the most influential texts in Japanese literature, "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" serves as a compelling entry point for readers interested in classical Japanese narratives, the evolution of ukiyo-zōshi (books of the floating world), and the cultural underpinnings of Edo-period society.

This article investigates the literary significance, thematic elements, and historical context of "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories," while also exploring its enduring relevance in both Eastern and Western literary traditions.

Background and Context of "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories"

Ihara Saikaku (1642–1693) is often regarded as the father of the ukiyo-zōshi genre, a style characterized by its focus on the transient pleasures and everyday lives of townspeople, merchants, and courtesans during Japan's Edo period. "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories," originally published in 1685, is a pioneering example of this genre. The work is composed of a series of linked stories chronicling the amorous adventures of a young man named Yonosuke, who travels to Kyoto and engages in various romantic and erotic exploits.

The narrative structure is notable for its episodic format, which allows Saikaku to explore a wide range of characters and social settings. This approach not only entertains but also provides a detailed social commentary on the mores and customs of the time. Importantly, "Poem of the Pillow" is not merely an erotic text; it is also a sophisticated literary work

that reflects the complexities of human relationships and societal expectations within the Edo-period milieu.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Saikaku's prose in "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" is characterized by its wit, vivid descriptions, and colloquial tone. Unlike earlier classical Japanese literature, which often employed formal and poetic language, Saikaku embraced a more accessible style, mirroring the speech and behavior of common townspeople. This democratization of language made his stories resonate widely with Edo's urban population.

The use of linked short stories creates a picaresque effect, with each episode presenting a self-contained narrative but also contributing to the overarching plot of Yonosuke's journey. This episodic style allows readers to experience the diverse facets of Edo society—from the pleasure quarters to merchant districts—without losing narrative cohesion.

Thematic Exploration in "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories"

"Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" delves into several interrelated themes, including desire, social mobility, and the tension between individual freedom and societal constraints. These themes are woven throughout the text, providing depth beyond its surface eroticism.

Desire and the Floating World

Central to the text is the theme of desire, both physical and emotional. Saikaku's portrayal of Yonosuke's escapades highlights the hedonistic culture of the "floating world" (*ukiyo*), where pleasure-seeking was a dominant social force. The stories vividly depict interactions with courtesans, merchants, and artists, showcasing the nuanced dynamics of attraction, seduction, and love. Unlike Western erotic literature of the same period, Saikaku's work often infuses humor and irony, suggesting a nuanced attitude toward sexuality that is neither purely celebratory nor condemnatory.

Social Mobility and Class Dynamics

While the Edo period was marked by rigid social hierarchies, "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" reveals the fluidity within the merchant class and the pleasure quarters. Yonosuke's adventures cross social boundaries, illustrating how wealth, wit, and charm allowed individuals to navigate these constraints. This theme offers insight into the complexities of Edo society, where class distinctions coexisted with a vibrant commercial

and cultural life.

The Conflict Between Personal Freedom and Societal Norms

Saikaku subtly critiques societal expectations through his characters' struggles with love, honor, and duty. The tension between following one's desires and adhering to social conventions permeates the narrative, reflecting the broader cultural conflicts of the time. This exploration adds psychological depth to what could otherwise be dismissed as mere erotic storytelling.

Comparative Analysis: "Poem of the Pillow" in Literary History

In the broader context of Japanese literature, "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" stands out for its pioneering role in popular fiction. Saikaku's work contrasts with the aristocratic romances of the Heian period, such as "The Tale of Genji," by focusing on the lives of commoners rather than nobility. This shift democratized literature and opened the door for future writers to explore everyday life in more pragmatic and humorous ways.

Comparatively, Western literature of the 17th century often treated erotic themes with restraint or moralizing tones. Saikaku's candid and playful approach was relatively unique, anticipating later developments in realistic and satirical fiction. Modern readers and scholars frequently cite "Poem of the Pillow" as an early example of narrative that blends entertainment with social critique.

Influence on Later Writers and Media

The legacy of "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" extends into modern Japanese literature and popular culture. Its themes and narrative style influenced authors such as Ihara Saikaku's contemporaries and successors in the Edo period, as well as 20th-century writers who revisited Edo-period settings with a critical eye.

Moreover, adaptations in theater, film, and manga have drawn from Saikaku's vivid characterizations and narrative structure. The enduring appeal of these stories lies in their universal exploration of human desires and social realities, making them relevant across centuries and cultures.

Pros and Cons of Reading "Poem of the Pillow and

Other Stories" Today

For contemporary readers, "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" offers both rich rewards and certain challenges:

- **Pros:**

- Provides authentic insight into Edo-period Japanese culture and society.
- Engages with timeless themes of desire, social mobility, and personal freedom.
- Exemplifies pioneering literary techniques with accessible prose.
- Offers a unique blend of humor, eroticism, and social critique.

- **Cons:**

- Some modern readers may find the episodic structure disjointed.
- Certain cultural references require background knowledge for full appreciation.
- The depiction of gender roles and sexuality reflects historical context, which may feel outdated or problematic to contemporary sensibilities.

Despite these considerations, the work remains a valuable resource for literary scholars, historians, and readers interested in classical Japanese narratives.

Access and Translations

The availability of quality English translations has significantly contributed to the global appreciation of "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories." Notable translations preserve the humor and nuances of Saikaku's prose while providing scholarly annotations to contextualize cultural references. These editions often include critical essays that enhance understanding and stimulate academic discussion.

Why "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" Matters in Modern Literary Studies

In an era increasingly focused on multicultural perspectives and global literary heritage, Saikaku's work stands out as a vital text that challenges Eurocentric narratives. The collection's candid exploration of human relationships, economic realities, and social stratification enriches the study of world literature.

Additionally, the text's role in shaping the ukiyo-zōshi genre offers valuable insights into the development of popular fiction. By bridging the gap between classical forms and emerging urban culture, "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" helps scholars trace the evolution of narrative forms and thematic concerns in Japanese literature.

Through its enduring appeal and scholarly significance, "Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories" continues to inspire readers and researchers, reaffirming its place as a cornerstone of Edo-period literary achievement.

Poem Of The Pillow And Other Stories

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Poem of the Pillow and other stories* by Utamaro, Hokusai, Kuniyoshi and other artists of the Floating World Gian Carlo Calza, 2009

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Snake's Pillow and Other Stories* Zhu Lin, 1998-02-01 Jiangnan, that part of east-central China watered by the Yangzi River, is the ironically Edenic setting for these six powerful tales of devotion, betrayal, and defilement. Zhu Lin, a uniquely angry female voice on China's literary scene, takes a particular interest in the plight of young women whose exceptional qualities condemn them to exploitation by men. No other contemporary Chinese writer renders the hostility of rural society toward women in such stark and ultimately tragic terms. Serpents tyrannize the innocent in this fictional Jiangnan garden. The title story refers to a fragrant, blood-red flower known as the snake's pillow, which symbolizes an innocent girl betrayed and violated by a male figure of authority. Immersed in the heady and sensual imagery of the natural world, Zhu Lin's female protagonists invite comparisons not only with Eve but also with Thomas Hardy's Tess. Zhu Lin has said of her fiction that its purpose is to "summon the souls" of readers who have lost themselves in the turbulence of a society in the transition to modernity—and then to restore these lost souls to the bodies they have left. An evocation of both flesh and spirit, these Jiangnan stories give voice to the complex and disturbing experience of women in a changing society.

poem of the pillow and other stories: Poem of the Pillow Gian Carlo Calza, 2016-05-23 A comprehensive and beautifully illustrated study of traditional Japanese erotic art. Poem of the Pillow and Other Stories examines the artistic developments of Japanese erotic art from the ukiyo-e period, dating from the mid-seventeenth century to the end of the nineteenth century. Known by the delicate euphemism of Shunga or 'spring images', these pictures were hugely popular and admired, and are today highly collectable works of art. This book illustrates major Shunga works from important ukiyo-e masters such as Utamaro, Hokusai, Harunobu, Kunisada, Kuniyoshi and many others. World-renowned scholar Gian Carlo Calza defines these fascinating erotic works in their social, historical and artistic context, providing a broad overview of a subject that is extremely nuanced and intriguing. Beautifully illustrated with over 300 images, including woodblock prints, scrolls and paintings, this book is a perfect introduction to ukiyo-e erotic art.

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Breanne the Bear and Other Stories* by Sara Danilewicz-*Collected by Gregory Danilewicz* Gregory Danilewicz, 2022-05-04 Sara had a passion for writing. These are a collection of the short stories she wrote throughout her life. The stories came from her heart. We hope you enjoy reading Sara's stories. We love you Sara. Love, Dad, Mom, and

your big sister, Anna

poem of the pillow and other stories: *The Leopard and Other Stories* Francesco Marincola, 2015-01-31 In this collection of short stories the author explores a variety of topics pondering over the essence of love as in *The Lovebirds* and *The Experiment*, or describing reflections of an old man at the end of life in *The Visit*, or empathetically dissecting the making of a sociopath sentenced to death by comparing him to the instinctual life of a solitary predator of the Savannah in *The Leopard*. Humorous insights over a dysfunctional family united in spite of untold love is presented in *A Rebellious Story* while other stories such as *Wife and Scrooge* 2011 portray the disorganized and confusing conduct of two self absorbed men, who cannot appreciate the nurturing love that surrounds them. There are in addition two short stories contributed by guest writers. In *The Rider* (contributed by Catterina Cocha) Clara creates her own reality show by glancing out of the big screen of the train window while in the apocalyptic *The Eve* (contributed by Jamie Marincola) husband and wife deal in different ways with extreme circumstances creating a humorous portrait of family life.

poem of the pillow and other stories: *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Other Stories From the Sketch Book* Washington Irving, 2006-04-04 Sage, storyteller, and wit, Washington Irving created such staples of American fiction as the stories "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." He earned his preeminence in early American literature with the masterpieces in miniature collected here: dozens of stories, travel essays, biographical discourses, and literary musings. "His influence on American writers is unquestioned," wrote Edgar Allan Poe, and his stories have proved as enduring as the Catskill Mountains the author immortalized. "Exceptional talent....I am one of his most ardent admirers. I admired Mr. Irving's work so much, in fact, that I gave it the ultimate praise; I 'borrowed it.'"—Edgar Allan Poe With an Introduction by Wayne Franklin

poem of the pillow and other stories: *The Apple-tree and Other Stories* John Galsworthy, 1928

poem of the pillow and other stories: *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Other Stories* Washington Irving, 1999-10-01 Before the fall premiere of the new television series, read the original legend of Ichabod Crane, the Headless Horseman, and the singularly spooky town of Sleepy Hollow in Washington Irving's classic book When Washington Irving first published this collection of essays, sketches, and tales—originally entitled *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*—readers greeted it with enthusiasm, and Irving emerged as America's first successful professional author. This volume includes *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*, two of America's most recognizable and loved works of fiction and displays Irving's ability to depict American landscapes and culture so vividly that readers feel themselves a part of them. And it is on the basis of these two classic tales that Irving is generally credited with inventing the short story as a distinct literary genre. Also included here are gently ironic pieces about life in England that reflect the author's interest in the traditions of the Old World and his longings for his home in the New.

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Elizabeth and Other Stories* Zoya Schmuter, 2020-06-03 There was one book, *Walk of Life*, published by Zoya Schmuter, MD, back in 2012, a collection of stories and essays covering travel experiences, various places of life, and unusual adventures. The new book is essentially continuation of that previous by offering a various stories, including travel to Italy and Israel, emigration from Nazi Germany and Soviet Union, and even adventure of the semi-wild cat Habib. *Elizabeth* story, the longest, describes the friendship of the author with Holocaust survivor, 103 years old woman escaping young from Nazi Germany, her life in Germany before WWII and after emigration. The author presents comparison of the young years of the Jewish woman in Germany with the author own childhood in the Soviet Union during and after the war. From Tuscany to Rome is a travel story with unique Untour company, that describes two weeks' vacation in Italy, staying in local apartments and observing places and live of this old and vibrant country. A River Cruise on Danube is the description of visits to some Eastern European countries (Czech, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia) which awake the author feelings about participation of these countries in WWII. Habib is a touchy and loving story of a semi-wild cat and his relationship with his masters, the author's family, deeply in love with their animals.

poem of the pillow and other stories: Sleepy Hollow and Other Stories Washington Irving, 2015-10-01 There is a sequestered glen off the east coast of the Hudson, New York state, which has long continued under the sway of some witching power; the neighbourhood abounds with tales, haunted spots and twilight superstitions. But as hapless schoolmaster Ichabod Crane will discover, the wildest of all stories in this region of shadows relate to one particularly dreadful spectre - the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow. Washington Irving's comic horror story is the best known of this collection of stories, observations and sketches written on his travels around Britain and America in the eighteenth century. Also includes 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'Little Britain'.

poem of the pillow and other stories: Women Who Live in Coffee Shops and Other Stories Stella Pope Duarte, 2010-04-01 Everybody says that the owner of Sal's Diner is a former Mafioso, but nine-year-old Joanna, whose mom has worked for him as long as she can remember, has a hard time believing he's a Mafia retiree. But one day, when two fat, toothless men who look like the Godfather's brothers show up at the diner, she wonders if maybe the rumor is true. And when Sal is arrested a few days later, Joanna's mother not only runs the diner while he's in jail, she also leads the charge to save him. Can the women who frequent his diner--the League of Women Who Live in Coffee Shops--save Sal from doing hard time in prison? Set against an urban backdrop of seedy motels and dilapidated houses next to industrial buildings and railroad tracks, Stella Pope Duarte's award-winning stories follow characters who make up the city's underbelly. Some strut through the lethal streets, flamboyant and hard to miss--flashy divas, transvestites, and prostitutes, like Valentine, one of the girls who decorated Van Buren Street like ornaments dangling precariously on a Christmas tree. Others remain hidden, invisible to those who don't seek them out--bag ladies, illegals, and addicts.

poem of the pillow and other stories: The Diary of a Superfluous Man and Other Stories Ivan Turgenev, 2018-05-28 When Turgenev published *Diary of a Superfluous Man* in 1850, he created one of the first literary portraits of the alienated man. Turgenev once said that there was a great deal of himself in the unsuccessful lovers who appear in his fiction. This failure, along with painful self-consciousness, is a central fact for the ailing Chulkaturin in this melancholy tale. As he reflects on his life, he tells the story of Liza, whom he loved, and a prince, whom she loved instead, and the curious turns all their lives took.

poem of the pillow and other stories: For a Song's Sake and Other Stories Philip Bourke Marston, 1887

poem of the pillow and other stories: *The Diary of A Superfluous Man, and Other Stories* Ivan sergeevich Turgenev, 2024-02-12 Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev reflects on existence in *The Diary of a Superfluous Man*, offering poignant insights into the human experience. *The Diary of a Superfluous Man, and Other Stories* by Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev: Immerse yourself in the eloquent prose of Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev through the pages of *The Diary of a Superfluous Man, and Other Stories*. This collection of poignant tales delves into the complexities of human relationships, societal expectations, and the inherent struggles of existence. Turgenev's narrative prowess brings to life characters grappling with the intricacies of their own humanity. Why This Book? Turgenev's *The Diary of a Superfluous Man, and Other Stories* provides a profound exploration of the human experience. These stories serve as a mirror reflecting the universal challenges of love, identity, and the pursuit of meaning. Readers will find themselves captivated by the timeless themes woven into the fabric of these narratives. Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev, a Russian literary giant, is renowned for his insightful portrayal of the human condition. *The Diary of a Superfluous Man, and Other Stories* stands as a testament to Turgenev's enduring legacy in the world of literature.

poem of the pillow and other stories: *The Man Upstairs, and Other Stories* Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, 2023-10-01 *The Man Upstairs and Other Stories* by P. G. Wodehouse: This collection of short stories showcases Wodehouse's trademark wit and humor, offering delightful tales that are sure to entertain and engage readers of all ages. With its engaging characters and clever wordplay, *The Man Upstairs and Other Stories* is a must-read for fans of comedic fiction. Key Aspects of the Book *The Man Upstairs and Other Stories*: Short Stories: The book is a collection of short stories,

each one a perfect example of Wodehouse's clever and witty writing style. Comedy: The book is a work of comedy, full of hilariously entertaining characters and clever observations about life and society. Characterization: The book presents a wide range of colorful and engaging characters, each one offering unique insights into the human condition. P. G. Wodehouse was an English author and humorist who lived from 1881 to 1975. He was a leading figure in the literary scene of his day, known for his witty writing and his engaging characters. *The Man Upstairs and Other Stories* is one of his most beloved works.

poem of the pillow and other stories: *The Man Upstairs and Other Stories* P. G. Wodehouse, 2015-12-27 *The Man Upstairs and Other Stories* is a collection of short stories by P. G. Wodehouse, first published in the United Kingdom on 23 January 1914. It is a miscellaneous collection, not featuring any of Wodehouse's regular characters; most of the stories concern love and romance. (Excerpt from Wikipedia)

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Legends of Glory and Other Stories* Harry Mark Petrakis, 2007 *Legends of Glory and Other Stories* contains a novella and eight short stories by award-winning author Harry Mark Petrakis. In a departure from his previous, highly regarded work, Petrakis offers a fresh new perspective in the novella, "Legends of Glory." For the first time Petrakis deals with the traditions and emotions of a small Midwestern town caught in the whirlwind of the Iraq War. In a communal rite of mourning, each character embodies a different voice, a different perspective, in regard to patriotism and pacifism. Although the novella relates to the sacrifice of a young man, the grieving of parents, and the conflicts of a family, it explores human sorrow and anger unchanged from the time of the Trojan War. In a return to his earlier lyrical prose style, Petrakis also treats us to eight beautifully crafted short stories. "Beauty's Daughter" introduces a sullen-spirited Greek bakery owner and his lovely, more amiable wife. "The Birthday" considers the fear that most people have of the emotional and physical decline that the years bring and the reconciliation with death. In "The Wisdom of Solon," Solon, who does not realize that life cannot be neatly categorized within the mysterious relationships between men and women, finds that every action sets in motion a series of often bewildering consequences. The question of a proper marriage match and the struggle to make the right choice mark "The Rousing of Mathon Sarlas." And the longing to believe that something survives our mortal bodies even if reason dictates otherwise is central to "A Dishwasher's Tale." Completing the collection are "Christina's Summer," "Rites of Passage," and "A Tale of Color," which are also presented in an inviting prose style and individualized by engaging characters to provide readers with a cumulative sense of culture, geography, and sensibility.

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Thornton's Apprentice and Other Stories* ,

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Waiting for Mr. Kim and Other Stories* Carol Roh Spaulding, 2023-09-15 This collection of linked stories follows four generations of the Songs, a Korean American family, beginning in 1924 just prior to the Immigration Act and extending to near the end of the century. Linked stories, or stories that form a story cycle, are a common book-length form seen in Asian American literature that accommodates multiple perspectives across generations and locations. Through this story cycle, patterns emerge as cultural identity and individuality, often in tension with one another, shape choices and outcomes. With these stories, Carol Roh Spaulding charts shifting definitions of "Americanness" across time through the arc of a family narrative. She also explores desire and belonging as articulated, in turns, by the mother, father, granddaughter, great-grandson, and even a ghost child who died after a tragic accident. But these linked stories center on the life experiences of Gracie Song. They follow her from girlhood to young motherhood, through her children's teenage years, and finally to her elderly solitude, when to her great astonishment she finds romance with a younger man and reconciliation with an estranged daughter—both unexpected gifts of later life.

poem of the pillow and other stories: *Not Safe After Dark, and Other Stories* Peter Robinson, 2009-02-24 Peter Robinson's first collection of short crime fiction spans his writing career and reveals his impeccable grasp of both mystery and suspense writing. The sixteen stories are set in

places as far flung as Inspector Alan Banks's turf in Yorkshire, Robinson's own neighbourhood in Toronto, and in Los Angeles and Florida. They also reach back in time: to 1873 to an utopian milltown in northern England, to Thomas Hardy country in 1939, and to a small Yorkshire town during the Second World War. The collection also includes a novella, featuring Robinson's celebrated sleuth Inspector Banks. *Going Home* is a chilling yet profoundly moving tale of just how hard it can be to visit one's elderly parents, even for only a few days. Four of the stories have won awards: *Innocence* won the Crime Writers of Canada Best Short Story Award in 1991, and *The Two Ladies of Rose Cottage* won the Mystery Readers International's Macavity Award in 1998 and was nominated for both the Agatha and Arthur Ellis awards. *Murder in Utopia* won Robinson his fifth Arthur Ellis Award in 2001, the same year that *Missing in Action* won the Edgar Award.

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