



## The Umbrella Man and Other Stories

By Roald Dahl

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Is it really possible to invent a machine that does the job of a writer? What is it about the landlady's house that makes it so hard for her guests to leave? Does Sir Basil Turton value most his wife or one of his priceless sculptures? These compelling tales are a perfect introduction to the adult writing of a storytelling genius.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As even Dahl's youngest admirers know, the late master writer can slice through the foibles and flaws of human nature with not just uncommon precision but with gleefully wicked, sometimes macabre humor as well. The 13 tales here, all of which previously appeared in collections for adult readers, show Dahl at his merciless best. There is a greedy, adulterous wife who gets a deftly delivered comeuppance; a sly butler who convinces his social-climbing employer to buy only the rarest of wines which he then secretly consumes with the chef while serving his master a "cheap and rather odious Spanish red"; and a shady fellow who more than meets his match when, in his customary disguise as a parson, he attempts to bilk a poor farmer out of a near-priceless antique. "Katina," the volume's chilling, exquisitely crafted centerpiece, ends with the senseless death of a golden-haired orphan who had been befriended by kind members of a fighter squadron stationed in Greece during WWII. The tragic thrust of this tale may hit readers hard. While some adults may deem the characters' martini-mixing, wine-sipping, philandering and marital infidelities inappropriate for those on the younger edge of the target audience, this exceptional compendium will thrill anyone in the mood for Dahl's fabled blade-sharp wit. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up-Readers who were turned on to chapter books with the magic of *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (1970) and the wondrous *James and the Giant Peach* (1961, both Knopf) will be interested to discover that Dahl began his writing career composing adult short stories?macabre, ironic tales that were translated into scripts for a popular TV series. This collection, based on those tales, is perfect for teen sensibilities. These poisonous gems reflect a British black humor sniping at greedy, pretentious folk. The language is precise, without an extraneous adjective; "The Landlady" is indeed "terribly nice" and Lady Turton of "Neck" prances and snorts like a barely restrained high-strung filly. Teachers looking for examples of irony need look no further than "Parson's Pleasure," in which an overeager antique collector gets exactly what he asks for. Feminists may be a bit offended; Dahl's antipathy for the female sex is rather evident throughout the stories. Wife and family are often an encumbrance in his world. "Royal Jelly" stars a father who is overinvolved in the caring for and feeding of his new offspring; it is a delicious morsel to serve to grown up "Goosebumps" fans. This baker's dozen is a treat for all YA collections.

*Marilyn Payne Phillips, University City Public Library, MO*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 8^12. The best pieces in this collection of 13 short stories, compiled from Dahl's early anthologies for adults, showcase Dahl's twisted wit and penchant for irony. Very few of the tales here have intrinsic YA appeal, but name recognition will surely attract some teenage readers, particularly those who regularly read adult books. The stories with the biggest pull are the gruesome ones: a man makes minor bets that may win him an opponent's finger; a young man checks into a bed-and-breakfast run by a woman whose not-so-harmless hobby is taxidermy; and a father tries to fatten his sickly infant with large doses of royal jelly from his beehives. The other selections range from wry to sentimental to amusing and are occasionally spiced with sweet revenge. Because there's no unifying theme, this will be tough to booktalk, but several of the stories will make excellent read-alouds. *Randy Meyer*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Daniel Spencer:**

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed The Umbrella Man and Other Stories? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have various other opinion?

#### **Bobbi Wilkinson:**

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the name The Umbrella Man and Other Stories suitable to you? The book was written by famous writer in this era. Often the book untitled The Umbrella Man and Other Stories is the main one of several books that will everyone read now. This book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know previous to. The author explained their concept in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this publication. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world in this particular book.

#### **Jacob Keys:**

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled The Umbrella Man and Other Stories your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get prior to. The The Umbrella Man and Other Stories giving you a different experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life with this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

#### **Wilda Alexander:**

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short time to read it because all this time you only find reserve that need more time to be study. The Umbrella Man and Other Stories can be your answer because it can be read by an individual who have those short spare time problems.

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