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# Doris Lessing Stories

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To Room Nineteen

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*Doris Lessing Stories*

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## **DEREK KIERA**

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The Cleft Simon and Schuster

Anna is a writer, author of one very successful novel, who now keeps four notebooks. In one, with a black cover, she reviews the African experience of her earlier years. In a red one she records her political life, her disillusionment with communism. In a yellow one she writes a novel in which the heroine relives part of her own experience. And in a blue one she keeps a personal diary. Finally, in love with an American writer and threatened with insanity, Anna resolves to bring the threads of all four books together in a golden notebook. Doris Lessing's best-known and

most influential novel, The Golden Notebook retains its extraordinary power and relevance decades after its initial publication.

To Room Nineteen HarperCollins UK

Classic horror of a family torn apart by the arrival of Ben, their feral fifth child. 'Listening to the laughter, the sounds of children playing, Harriet and David would reach for each other's hand, and smile, and breathe happiness.' Four children, a beautiful old house, the love of relatives and friends, Harriet and David Lovatt's life is a hymn to domestic bliss and old-fashioned family values. But when their fifth child is born, a sickly and implacable shadow is cast over this tender idyll. Large and ugly, violent and uncontrollable, the infant Ben, 'full of cold dislike, ' tears at Harriet's breast. Struggling to care for her new-born child, faced

with a darkness and a strange defiance she has never known before, Harriet is deeply afraid of what, exactly, she has brought into the world..

**The Golden Notebook** HarperPerennial

This is Doris Lessing's Africa where she lived for twenty-five years and where so much of her interest and concern still resides. Here in these stories, Lessing explores the complexities, the agonies and joys, and the textures of life in Africa.

African Stories Harper Collins

I think my father's rage at the trenches took me over, when I was very young, and has never left me. Do children feel their parents' emotions? Yes, we do, and it is a legacy I could have done without. What is the use of it? It is as if that old war is in my own memory, my own consciousness. In this extraordinary book, the 2007 Nobel Laureate Doris Lessing explores the lives of her parents, each irrevocably damaged by the Great War. Her father wanted the simple life of an English farmer, but shrapnel almost killed him in the trenches, and thereafter he had to wear a wooden leg. Her mother, Emily, spent the war nursing the wounded in the Royal Free Hospital after her great love, a doctor, drowned in the Channel. In the fictional first half of *Alfred and Emily*, Doris Lessing imagines the happier lives her parents might have made for themselves had there been no war; a story that begins with their meeting at a village cricket match outside Colchester. This is followed by a piercing examination of their relationship as it actually was in the shadow of the Great War, of the family's move to Africa, and of the impact of her parents' marriage on a young woman growing up in a strange land. "Here I still am," says Doris Lessing, "trying to get out from under that

monstrous legacy, trying to get free." Triumphant, with the publication of *Alfred and Emily*, she has done just that.

An Old Woman and Her Cat Vintage

In her 1985 CBC Massey Lectures Doris Lessing addresses the question of personal freedom and individual responsibility in a world increasingly prone to political rhetoric, mass emotions, and inherited structures of unquestioned belief. The Nobel Prize-winning author of more than thirty books, Doris Lessing is one of our most challenging and important writers.

**This was the Old Chief's Country** Troy, N.Y : Whitston Publishing Company

As the summer begins, Kate Brown -- attractive, intelligent, forty five, happily enough married, with a house in the London suburbs and three grown children -- has no reason to expect anything will change. But when the summer ends, the woman she was -- living behind a protective camouflage of feminine charm and caring -- no longer exists. This novel. Doris Lessing's brilliant excursion into the terrifying stretch of time between youth and old age, is her journey: from London to Turkey to Spain, from husband to lover to madness: on the road to a frightening new independence and a confrontation with self that lets her, finally, come truly of age.

*The Golden Notebook* HarperCollins UK

Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-

sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local “powhitetrash.” At eight years old and back at her mother’s side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read. “*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* liberates the reader into life simply because Maya Angelou confronts her own life with such a moving wonder, such a luminous dignity.”—James Baldwin From the Paperback edition.

**Alfred and Emily** HarperCollins Publishers

Doris Lessing's contemporary gothic horror story—centered on the birth of a baby who seems less than human—probes society's unwillingness to recognize its own brutality. Harriet and David Lovatt, parents of four children, have created an idyll of domestic bliss in defiance of the social trends of late 1960s England. While around them crime and unrest surge, the Lovatts are certain that their old-fashioned contentment can protect them from the world outside—until the birth of their fifth baby. Gruesomely goblin-like in appearance, insatiably hungry, abnormally strong and violent, Ben has nothing innocent or infant-like about him. As he grows older and more terrifying, Harriet finds she cannot love him, David cannot bring himself to touch him, and their four older children are afraid of him. Understanding that he will never be

accepted anywhere, Harriet and David are torn between their instincts as parents and their shocked reaction to this fierce and unlovable child whose existence shatters their belief in a benign world.

**Mara and Dann** HarperCollins UK

From the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Doris Lessing, a short story about a woman’s gradual drift outside the limits of society.

Doris Lessing Heinemann

"Doris Lessing has a powerful voice and a particular one. It speaks in anger at the distortion of personal relations in a unsound society, but speaks it with a wit that manages to be both pitiless and compassionate." — Richard Eder, Los Angeles Times  
The stories and sketches in this collection penetrate to the heart of human experience with the passion and intelligence readers have come to expect of Doris Lessing. Most of the pieces are set in contemporary London, a city the author loves for its variety, its diversity, the way it connects the life of animals and birds in the parks to the streets. Lessing's fiction also explores the darker corners of relationships between women and men, as in the rich and emotionally complex title story, in which she uncovers a more parlous reality behind the façade of the most conventional relationship between the sexes.

The Fifth Child Brentwood Music

This wide-ranging collection of the stories by the renowned Nobel Laureate--spanning more than two decades of her astonishing career--highlights her singular gifts for portraying the complex lives of men and women in a modern, often alienating world.

*Canopus in Argos* Everyman's Library CLASSICS

The fifth and final volume in Doris Lessing's visionary novel cycle *Canopus in Argos: Archives*. It is a mix of fable, futuristic fantasy and pseudo-documentary accounts of 20th-century history.

Collected Stories HarperCollins UK

From Doris Lessing, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, this is the first instalment in the visionary novel cycle 'Canopus in Argos: Archives'. The story of the final days of our planet is told through the reports of Johor, an emissary sent from Canopus. Earth, now named Shikasta (the Stricken) by the kindly, paternalistic Canopeans who colonised it many centuries ago, is under the influence of the evil empire of Puttiora. War, famine, disease and environmental disasters ravage the planet. To Johor, mankind is a 'totally crazed species', racing towards annihilation: his orders to save humanity set him what seems to be an impossible task. Blending myth, fable and allegory, Doris Lessing's astonishing visionary creation both reflects and redefines the history of our own world from its earliest beginnings to an inevitable, tragic self-destruction.

*A Man and Two Women* Random House

This volume posits and explores an intermedial genre called theatre-fiction, understood in its broadest sense as referring to novels and stories that engage in concrete and sustained ways with theatre. Though theatre has made star appearances in dozens of literary fictions, including many by modern history's most influential authors, no full-length study has dedicated itself specifically to theatre-fiction—in fact there has not even been a recognized name for the phenomenon. Focusing on Britain, where most of the world's theatre-novels have been produced, and commencing in the late-nineteenth century, when theatre

increasingly took on major roles in novels, *Theatre-Fiction in Britain* argues for the benefits of considering these works in relation to each other, to a history of development, and to the theatre of their time. New modes of intermedial analysis are modelled through close studies of Henry James, Somerset Maugham, Virginia Woolf, J. B. Priestley, Ngaio Marsh, Angela Carter, and Doris Lessing, all of whom were deeply involved in the theatre-world as playwrights, directors, reviewers, and theorists. Drawing as much on theatre scholarship as on literary theory, *Theatre-Fiction in Britain* presents theatre-fiction as one of the past century's most vital means of exploring, reconsidering, and bringing forth theatre's potentials.

*Doris Lessing* Vintage

Enthält: The Old Chief Mshlanga. - A sunrise on the Veld. - No witchcraft for sale. - The second hut. - The nuisance. - The De Wets come to Kloof Grange. - Little Tembi. - Old John's Place. - 'Leopard' George. - Winter in July.

African Stories Harper Collins

'The Sirian Experiments' is the third volume in Doris Lessing's celebrated space fiction series, 'Canopus in Argos: Archives'. In this interlinked quintet of novels, she creates a new, extraordinary cosmos where the fate of the Earth is influenced by the rivalries and interactions of three powerful galactic empires, Canopus, Sirius and their enemy, Puttiora. Blending myth, fable and allegory, Doris Lessing's astonishing visionary creation both reflects and redefines the history of our own world from its earliest beginnings to an inevitable, tragic self-destruction. 'The Sirian Experiments' chronicles the origins of our planet, as the three galactic empires fight for control of the human race. The

novel charts the gradual moral awakening of its narrator, Ambien II, a 'dry, dutiful, efficient' female Sirian administrator. Witnessing the wanton colonization of land and people, Ambien begins to question her involvement in such insidious experimentation, her faith in the possibility of human progress itself growing weaker every day.

The Fifth Child Bloomsbury Academic

Vacationing at the seashore, a young boy's endurance is tested to the limit when he tries to swim through an underwater tunnel.

Through the Tunnel Harper Collins

Lessing's powerful and liberating feminist classic--now available in a beautiful trade paperback edition. Alternating between a conventional novel, involving Anna and her friend Molly, and Anna's journal entries, the notebooks reflect various aspects of Anna's personal and political upheavals.

**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** HarperCollins UK

This new edition of Elizabeth Maslen's successful study covers the full range of Doris Lessing's work and explores in detail both its form and content. From *The Grass is Singing* (1950) through to *Alfred and Emily* (2008) her main concerns are shown to have a

remarkable continuity, both in her commitment to political and cultural issues and in her explorations of inner space. Her experiments with form are closely analysed, and her bold exposure of jargon, cliché, and the manipulative power of language is demonstrated. While she can be seen as part of the great diasporic influx that followed World War Two her experimentations with form blend in with the explorations of realism taking place in much British fiction from the early years of the twentieth century. This is a concise, accessible, but scholarly book, offering both perceptive critical insights and a valuable up-to-date bibliography.

The Sweetest Dream Harper Collins

This major collection contains all of Doris Lessing's short fiction, other than the stories set in Africa, from the beginning of her career until now. Set in London, Paris, the south of France, the English countryside, these thirty-five stories reflect the themes that have always characterized Lessing's work: the bedrock realities of marriage and other relationships between men and women; the crisis of the individual whose very psyche is threatened by a society unattuned to its own most dangerous qualities; the fate of women.