

# Open Secrets Alice Munro

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**Runaway** - Alice Munro  
2011-06-22  
"Runaway" is the first story in this stunning collection, sure to be a runaway success. All of the eight stories here are new, published in book form for the first time. Two of the eight have never appeared anywhere, so this will be a special feast for the millions of Munro

fans around the world. Miraculously, these stories seem to have been written by a young writer at the peak of her powers. Alice Munro's central characters range from 14-year-old Lauren in "Trespass," through the young couple in "Runaway," whose helpful older neighbour intervenes to help the

wife escape, all the way to a 70-year-old woman meeting a friend of her youth on a Vancouver street and sitting with him to recall their tangled lives fifty years earlier, through a web of cheerful lies. Three of the stories, "Chance," "Soon," and "Silence," are linked, showing us how the young teacher Juliet meets her fisherman lover on a train (and, by terrible chance, visits his B.C. home on the day after his wife's funeral); how, years later, she brings baby Penelope back east to show her parents and learns sad secrets about their marriage; and how, twenty years on, she visits the estranged Penelope in her cult-like B.C. community. The result is more powerful than most novels, a quality in Alice Munro's stories that has been noted by many reviewers.

The final story, "Powers," spans 50 years and runs from Goderich to Vancouver and involves a cast of four characters, each of whom steps forward to dominate the scene, not least Tessa, the plain girl whose psychic powers take her on the vaudeville circuit. But it is Alice Munro's own powers that dominate this collection and that will amaze reviewers and readers. How can she keep getting better? How can any one person know so much about the heads and hearts of so many different people? And how can she weave them together in stories that delight academics and ordinary readers alike, making each new Alice Munro book a runaway bestseller?

**The Rest of the Story** - Robert Thacker 1999  
Leading critics explore the myriad connections informing Canadian

author Munro's  
deceptively simple  
tales.

**The Love of a Good Woman**

- Alice Munro 2011-06-22

All of these eight  
wonderful stories are  
about what people will  
do for love, and the  
unexpected routes their  
passion will force them  
to take. An old landlady  
in Vancouver who alarms  
the just-married  
narrator with her prim  
advice about married  
life – and “the peculiar  
threat” of a china  
cabinet that must be  
washed once a month – is  
shown to have conspired  
when young in a crime of  
passion. A young mother,  
at the mercy of the  
“radiant explosion” that  
comes when she thinks of  
her secret life,  
abandons her baby and  
four-year old to be with  
her lover in the story  
“The Children Stay.” A  
gruff old country doctor  
in the 1960s is  
discovered by his

daughter to be helping  
desperate women, his  
“special patients.” An  
impetuous young woman  
meets a visiting Indian  
student and conceives on  
a train from Vancouver  
to Toronto because of  
“the fact that you  
couldn't get condoms  
around the Calgary  
station, not for love or  
money.” An Ontario farm  
wife's affair drives her  
husband to commit a  
murder; its discovery,  
years later, will act as  
a negotiating point for  
a new, presumably  
satisfactory, marriage.  
The book is clear-eyed  
about the imperfections  
of marriage, the clutter  
of our emotional lives,  
and the impermanence of  
love: “Not that that was  
the end. For we did make  
up. But we didn't  
forgive each other.”  
Even the shared memories  
of earlier times prove  
to be a minefield, and  
many of the stories  
track the changes that

time brings over generations to families, lovers, and even to friends who share old, intimate secrets about "the prostration of love." As always these stories by Alice Munro are shot through with humour, and are as rich as novels. As always the characters in the stories are easily, sometimes uncomfortably, recognizable as people like us. One quote summarizes the delightful surprises that await the reader: "Did you ever think that people's lives could be like that and end up like this? Well, they can."

**Open Secrets** - Alice Munro 2003

Ranging from the 1850s through two world wars to the present, and from Canada to Brisbane, the Balkans and the Somme, these dazzling stories reveal the secrets of unconventional women who

refuse to be contained. Each story can be read in one sitting and will work its magic long after you've finished.

Friend of My Youth -

Alice Munro 2012-04-25

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE

2013 The ten

miraculously

accomplished stories in

Alice Munro's *Friend of*

*My Youth* not only

astonish and delight but

also convey the unspoken

mysteries at the heart

of all human experience.

"[*Friend of My Youth* is]

a wonderful collection

of stories, beautifully

written and deeply

felt."--Michiko

Kakutani, *New York Times*

**The Office** - Alice Munro

2015-05-01

A Vintage Shorts "Short

Story Month" Selection

The solution came to the

writer one evening: she

should have an office.

From Nobel Laureate

Alice Munro, a

brilliantly executed and

revelatory story—one of the earliest published works of her career—in which simply finding a place to write turns out to be the hardest act of all. Alice Munro is the universally acclaimed master of the contemporary short story, the Chekhov of our time, and "The Office" sheds light on the process and growth of a beloved writer. A selection from *Dance of the Happy Shades*, Munro's first collection. An eBook short.

Vandals - Alice Munro  
1994-09-15

**My Best Stories** - Alice Munro  
2009-10-06

*My Best Stories* is a dazzling selection of stories—seventeen favourites chosen by the author from across her distinguished career. The stories are arranged in the order in which they were written,

allowing even the most devoted Munro admirer to discover how her work developed. "Royal Beatings" shows us right away how far we are from the romantic world of happy endings. "The Albanian Virgin" smashes the idea that all of her stories are set in B.C. or in Ontario's "Alice Munro Country." "A Wilderness Station" breaks short story rules by transporting us back to the 1830s and then jumping forward more than a hundred years. And the final story, "The Bear Came Over the Mountain," which was adapted into the film *Away from Her*, leads us far beyond the turkey-plucking world of young girls into unflinching old age. Every story in this selection is superb. It is a book to read—and reread—very slowly, savouring each separate story. This collection of small

masterpieces deserves a place in every book lover's home.

**Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage: A Story -**

Alice Munro 2016-05-01  
A Vintage Shorts "Short Story Month" Selection  
With hardly any notice, foolish and plain housekeeper Johanna flees her employer and sets off to find the man she's fallen in love with. Little does she know that her correspondence with him has been a complete fabrication, a cruel teenager's idea of a practical joke. So, who will Johanna find when she steps off her train with the household furniture in tow? Alice Munro is the universally celebrated master of the contemporary short story, the Chekhov of our time. Nowhere are her powers better on display than in this exquisitely crafted

story exploring the wonderful and unexpected places where love, or the illusion of it, can lead. This selection is the title story of Munro's acclaimed collection, Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage and the basis of the 2013 film, Hateship Loveship. An ebook short.

**Selected Stories -** Alice Munro 2012-10-31

Covering the first half of Nobel Prize winner Alice Munro's career, these are some of the best, most touching and powerful short stories ever written This first-ever selection of Alice Munro's stories sums up her genius. Her territory is the secrets that cackle beneath the façade of everyday lives, the pain and promises, loves and fears of apparently ordinary men and women whom she renders extraordinary and

unforgettable. This volume brings together the best of Munro's stories, from 1968 through to 1994. The second selected volume of her stories, 1995-2009 is also published by Vintage Classics.

**The Beggar Maid** - Alice Munro 2011-12-21  
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 In this series of interweaving stories, Munro recreates the evolving bond between two women in the course of almost forty years. One is Flo, practical, suspicious of other people's airs, at times dismayingly vulgar. the other is Rose, Flo's stepdaughter, a clumsy, shy girl who somehow leaves the small town she grew up in to achieve her own equivocal success in the larger world.

Lives of Mothers & Daughters - Sheila Munro

2008

Sheila Munro is the daughter of one of the world's most admired fiction writers: Alice Munro, three-time winner of Canada's prestigious Governor General's Award. In *Lives of Mothers and Daughters*, she reveals what it was like to grow up with a mother of such tremendous renown. At the core of the book lies a loving and intimate biography of Alice, presented as only a daughter can. Sheila traces the story back to her ancestors, who left Scotland in the early 19th century, before telling of Alice's birth in 1931, her youth growing up on an Ontario farm, and her two marriages, and two grandchildren--Sheila's own children. Sheila has a tale to tell that's her own as well, involving her writerly aspirations and her

efforts to forge a unique path while following in her mother's footsteps. And so, from her perspective as both an author and a mother, Sheila writes frankly about her mother and her mother's writing. The legions of devoted Alice Munro fans will glimpse real-life settings, situations and characters that have worked their way into her fiction as Sheila offers a behind-the-scenes tour (replete with Munro family snapshots) of the inspirations for the tales Munro fans know and love.

### **The View From Castle**

**Rock** - Alice Munro

2008-11-19

A new collection of stories by Alice Munro is always a major event. This new collection – her most personal to date – is no exception. Alice Munro's stories are always wonderful and

so ingrained with truths about life that readers always want to know where they came from. In this book, Alice Munro tells us. In her Foreword (an unusual feature in itself), she explains how she, born Alice Laidlaw in Ontario, in recent years became interested in the history of her Laidlaw ancestors. Starting in the wilds of the Scottish Borders, she learned a great deal about a famous ancestor, born around 1700, who, as his tombstone records, "for feats of frolic, agility and strength, had no equal in his day." She traced the family's history with the help of that man's nephew, the famous writer James Hogg, finding to her delight that each generation of the family had produced a writer who wanted to record what had befallen them. In this way, she



was able to follow the family's voyage to Canada in 1818, and their hard times as pioneers – once a father dies on the same day that a daughter is born in the same frontier cabin. "I put all this material together over the years," Alice tells us, "and almost without my noticing what was happening, it began to shape itself, here and there, into something almost like stories. Some of the characters gave themselves to me in their own words, others rose out of their situations." As the book goes down through the generations, we come to Robert Laidlaw, Alice's father, and then, at the book's heart, the stories become first-person stories, set during her lifetime. So is this a memoir? No. She drew on personal experiences, "but then I did anything I wanted to

with this material, because the chief thing I was doing was making a story." The resulting collection of stories range from the title story – where through a haze of whiskey Alice's ancestors gaze north from Edinburgh Castle at the Fife coast, believing that it is North America – all the way to the final story, where we travel with "Alice Munro" today. In the author's words, these stories "pay more attention to the truth of a life than fiction usually does. But not enough to swear on." All of them are Alice Munro stories. There could be no higher praise.

*Family Furnishings* -  
Alice Munro 2014-11-11  
From the winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize in Literature—and one of our most beloved writers—a new selection of her peerless short fiction, gathered from

the collections of the last two decades, a companion volume to *Selected Stories* (1968-1994). *Family Furnishings* brings us twenty-four of Alice Munro's most accomplished, most powerfully affecting stories, many of them set in the territory she has so brilliantly made her own: the small towns and flatlands of southwestern Ontario. Subtly honed with her hallmark precision, grace, and compassion, these stories illuminate the quotidian yet extraordinary particularity in the lives of men and women, parents and children, friends and lovers as they discover sex, fall in love, part, quarrel, suffer defeat, set off into the unknown, or find a way to be in the world. Peopled with characters as real to us as we are to ourselves,

Munro's stories encompass the fullness of human experience—from the wild exhilaration of first love, in "Passion," to the lengths a once-straying husband will go to make his wife happy as her memory fades, in "The Bear Came Over the Mountain." Other stories suggest the punishing consequences of leaving home ("Runaway") or leaving a marriage ("The Children Stay"). The part romantic love plays in one's existence is explored in "Too Much Happiness," based on the life of the noted nineteenth-century mathematician, Sophia Kovalevsky. And in stories that Munro has described as "closer to the truth than usual"—"Dear Life," "Working for a Living," and "Home" among them—we glimpse the author's own life. As the Nobel Prize presentation speech says

in part: "Reading one of Alice Munro's texts is like watching a cat walk across a laid dinner table. A brief short story can often cover decades, summarizing a life, as she moves deftly between different periods. No wonder Alice Munro is often able to say more in thirty pages than an ordinary novelist is capable of in three hundred. She is a virtuoso of the elliptical and the master of the contemporary short story."

*A Permanent Member of the Family* - Russell Banks 2013-11-12  
Suffused with Russell Banks's trademark lyricism and reckless humor, the twelve stories in *A Permanent Member of the Family* examine the myriad ways we try—and sometimes fail—to connect with one another, as we seek a home in the world. In

the title story, a father looks back on the legend of the cherished family dog whose divided loyalties mirrored the fragmenting of his marriage. "A Former Marine" asks, to chilling effect, if one can ever stop being a parent. And in the haunting, evocative "Veronica," a mysterious woman searching for her daughter may not be who she claims she is. Moving between the stark beauty of winter in upstate New York and the seductive heat of Florida, Banks's acute and penetrating collection demonstrates the range and virtuosity of both his narrative prowess and his startlingly panoramic vision of modern American life.

**What Is Remembered (Storycuts)** - Alice Munro 2011-11-17  
A fleeting affair lingers in the memory of

a woman. Thirty years after the event, when both husband and lover have died, she remembers one further detail. Part of the Storycuts series, this short story was previously published in the collection Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage. Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You - Alice Munro 2011-12-21  
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE  
2013 In the thirteen stories in her remarkable second collection, Alice Munro demonstrates the precise observation, straightforward prose style, and masterful technique that led no less a critic than John Updike to compare her to Chekhov. The sisters, mothers and daughters, aunts, grandmothers, and friends in these stories shimmer with hope and love, anger and reconciliation, as they

contend with their histories and their present, and what they can see of the future. Excellent Women - Barbara Pym 2006-12-26  
Excellent Women is probably the most famous of Barbara Pym's novels. The acclaim a few years ago for this early comic novel, which was hailed by Lord David Cecil as one of 'the finest examples of high comedy to have appeared in England during the past seventy-five years,' helped launch the rediscovery of the author's entire work. Mildred Lathbury is a clergyman's daughter and a spinster in the England of the 1950s, one of those 'excellent women' who tend to get involved in other people's lives - such as those of her new neighbor, Rockingham, and the vicar next door. This is Barbara Pym's world at its funniest.

*Dear Life* - Alice Munro  
2012-11-13  
WINNER OF THE NOBEL  
PRIZE® IN LITERATURE  
2013 A New York Times  
Notable Book A  
Washington Post Notable  
Work of Fiction A Best  
Book of the Year: The  
Atlantic, NPR, San  
Francisco Chronicle,  
Vogue, AV Club In story  
after story in this  
brilliant new  
collection, Alice Munro  
pinpoints the moment a  
person is forever  
altered by a chance  
encounter, an action not  
taken, or a simple twist  
of fate. Her characters  
are flawed and fully  
human: a soldier  
returning from war and  
avoiding his fiancée, a  
wealthy woman deciding  
whether to confront a  
blackmailer, an  
adulterous mother and  
her neglected children,  
a guilt-ridden father, a  
young teacher jilted by  
her employer. Illumined  
by Munro's unflinching

insight, these lives  
draw us in with their  
quiet depth and surprise  
us with unexpected  
turns. And while most  
are set in her signature  
territory around Lake  
Huron, some strike even  
closer to home: an  
astonishing suite of  
four autobiographical  
tales offers an  
unprecedented glimpse  
into Munro's own  
childhood. Exalted by  
her clarity of vision  
and her unparalleled  
gift for storytelling,  
*Dear Life* shows how  
strange, perilous, and  
extraordinary ordinary  
life can be.

*Vintage Munro* - Alice  
Munro 2014-04-22  
WINNER OF THE NOBEL  
PRIZE® IN LITERATURE  
2013 Vintage Readers are  
a perfect introduction  
to some of the greatest  
modern writers presented  
in attractive,  
accessible paperback  
editions. "In Munro's  
hands, as in Chekhov's,

a short story is more than big enough to hold the world—and to astonish us again and again.” —Chicago Tribune  
In an unbroken procession of brilliant, revelatory short stories, Alice Munro has unfolded the wordless secrets that lie at the heart of all human experience. She has won three Governor General’s Literary Awards in her native Canada, as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award. Vintage Munro includes stories from throughout her career: The title stories from her collections *The Moons of Jupiter*; *The Progress of Love*; *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*; “Differently,” from *Selected Stories*, and “Carried Away,” from *Open Secrets*.

**A Wilderness Station** -  
Alice Munro 2015-10-06  
A New York Times

Editors’ Choice Book  
Spanning almost thirty years and settings that range from big cities to small towns and farmsteads of rural Canada, this magnificent collection brings together twenty-eight stories by a writer of unparalleled wit, generosity, and emotional power. In *A Wilderness Station: Selected Stories, 1968–1994*, Alice Munro makes lives that seem small unfold until they are revealed to be as spacious as prairies and locates the moments of love and betrayal, desire and forgiveness, that change those lives forever. A traveling salesman during the Depression takes his children with him on an impromptu visit to a former girlfriend. A poor girl steels herself to marry a rich fiancé she can’t quite manage to love. An abandoned

woman tries to choose between the opposing pleasures of seduction and solitude. To read these stories is to succumb to the spell of a true narrative sorcerer, a writer who enchants her readers utterly even as she restores them to their truest selves.

**Lives of Girls and Women**

- Alice Munro 2011-12-21

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE

2013 The only novel from Alice Munro-award-winning author of *The Love of a Good Woman*--is an insightful, honest book, "autobiographical in form but not in fact," that chronicles a young girl's growing up in rural Ontario in the 1940's. Del Jordan lives out at the end of the Flats Road on her father's fox farm, where her most frequent companions are an eccentric bachelor family friend and her

rough younger brother. When she begins spending more time in town, she is surrounded by women--her mother, an agnostic, opinionated woman who sells encyclopedias to local farmers; her mother's boarder, the lusty Fern Dogherty; and her best friend, Naomi, with whom she shares the frustrations and unbridled glee of adolescence. Through these unwitting mentors and in her own encounters with sex, birth, and death, *Del* explores the dark and bright sides of womanhood. All along she remains a wise, witty observer and recorder of truths in small-town life. The result is a powerful, moving, and humorous demonstration of Alice Munro's unparalleled awareness of the lives of girls and women.

**Alice Munro** - Coral Ann Howells 1998-10-15

Alice Munro is Canada's greatest short story writer. This book, the first full length study of her work published in Britain, explores the appeal of Munro's fictions of small-town Canadian life with their precise attention to social surfaces and their fascination with local gossip and scandal. This is a world of open secrets, and Howells highlights Munro's distinctive storytelling methods which combine the familiar and the unfamiliar, slipping between realism and fantasy to make visible what is usually hidden within everyday life. These are women's narratives, full of silent female knowledge - of female bodies, love stories and romantic fantasies as well as female casualties. Munro takes up the traditional subjects of women's

fiction through her stories' significantly female plots, stories of entrapment and escape attempts, where secrecy and silence become strategies of resistance. Munro's enthusiasm for the work of other women writers from Emily Brontë and L. M. Montgomery to Eudora Welty is emphasized as Munro continues to experiment with the short story form, creating worlds which are both "touchable and mysterious."

The Progress of Love -

Alice Munro 2011-12-21

WINNER OF THE NOBEL

PRIZE® IN LITERATURE

2013 Alice Munro, who

received the National

Book Critics Circle

Award for her latest

collection of stories,

The Love of a Good

Woman, is widely

acknowledged as a modern

master of the short

story. In this earlier

collection, she



demonstrates all of those strengths that have won her so many literary accolades. A divorced woman returns to her childhood home where she confronts the memory of her parents' confounding yet deep bond. The accidental near-drowning of a child exposes the fragility of the trust between children and parents. A young man, remembering a terrifying childhood incident, wrestles with the responsibility he has always felt for his younger brother. In these and other stories Alice Munro proves once again a sensitive and compassionate chronicler of our times. Drawing us into the most intimate corners of ordinary lives, she reveals much about ourselves, our choices, and our experiences of love.

Open Secrets Stories - 2015

At the Bottom of Everything - Ben Dolnick 2014-09-09

It's been ages since the "incident" that estranged former best friends Adam and Thomas, and Adam has long since decided he's better off, even if his own life hasn't exactly turned out as planned. Ten years after the two friends spoke their last words, Adam is working as a tutor, sleeping with the mother of a student, and spending most of his nights looking up his ex-girlfriend on Facebook. But when he receives an email from Thomas's mother begging for his help, he finds himself drawn back into his old friend's world. Thomas hasn't been doing well, and now he's disappeared while traveling in India. As Adam embarks upon a magnificently strange and unlikely journey, Ben Dolnick

unspools a tale of friendship, spiritual reckoning, and redemption.

**Murambi, The Book of Bones** - Boubacar Boris Diop 2006-04-04

"[W]hat is true of Rwanda is true in each of us; we all share in Africa." -- L'Harmattan  
"[This novel] comes closer than have many political scientists or historians to trying to understand why this small country... sank in such appalling violence." -- Radio France International  
In April of 1994, nearly a million Rwandans were killed in what would prove to be one of the swiftest, most terrifying killing sprees of the 20th century. In *Murambi, The Book of Bones*, Boubacar Boris Diop comes face to face with the chilling horror and overwhelming sadness of the tragedy. Now, the power of Diop's

acclaimed novel is available to English-speaking readers through Fiona Mc Laughlin's crisp translation. The novel recounts the story of a Rwandan history teacher, Cornelius Uvimana, who was living and working in Djibouti at the time of the massacre. He returns to Rwanda to try to comprehend the death of his family and to write a play about the events that took place there. As the novel unfolds, Cornelius begins to understand that it is only our humanity that will save us, and that as a writer, he must bear witness to the atrocities of the genocide. From the novel: "If only by the way people are walking, you can see that tension is mounting by the minute. I can feel it almost physically. Everyone is running or at least hurrying about.

I meet more and more passersby who seem to be walking around in circles. There seems to be another light in their eyes. I think of the fathers who have to face the anguished eyes of their children and who can't tell them anything. For them, the country has become an immense trap in the space of just a few hours. Death is on the prowl. They can't even dream of defending themselves. Everything has been meticulously prepared for a long time: the administration, the army, and the [militia] are going to combine forces to kill, if possible, every last one of them."

**Modern Classics Open Secrets** - Alice Munro  
2007-05-22

With an Introduction by Jane Urquhart There is a remarkable magic in these eight matchless

stories—stories set in Ontario, Australia, Europe; in dangerous mountains, forbidding wilderness, familiar towns. Things that cannot be explained happen here—and yet all seems inevitable, deeply credible and always profoundly true to the human heart.

**Too Much Happiness** - Alice Munro 2009-08-25  
An international literary event: Ten new stories from a beloved and award-winning author. This stunning collection of new stories demonstrates once again why Alice Munro is celebrated as a pre-eminent master of the short story. While some of the stories are traditional, set in "Alice Munro Country" in Ontario or in B.C., dealing with ordinary women's lives, others have a new, sharper edge. They involve child murders, strange sex,

and a terrifying home invasion. By way of astonishing variety, the title story, set in Victorian Europe, follows the last journey from France to Sweden of a famous Russian mathematician. This daring, superb collection proves that Alice Munro will always surprise you.

**Open Secrets** - Alice Munro 2011-12-21

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 In these eight tales, Munro evokes the devastating power of old love suddenly recollected. She tells of vanished schoolgirls and indentured frontier brides and an eccentric recluse who, in the course of one surpassingly odd dinner party, inadvertently lands herself a wealthy suitor from exotic Australia. And Munro shows us how one woman's romantic tale of capture

and escape in the high Balkans may end up inspiring another woman who is fleeing a husband and lover in present-day Canada. "Open Secrets is a book that dazzles with its faith in language and in life."--New York Times Book Review

**Alice Munro** - Carol Mazur 2007

This bibliography - compiled to fill a gap in literary research relating to Munros work covers all of her fictional writing up to 2005 and includes annotations to interviews, Munros non fiction writings, and hundreds of critical books, theses, and articles. These descriptive annotations, coupled with a detailed subject index, display the broad range of subject approaches, assessments, and angles by which her complex, deep and multi-layered work has been

scrutinized by academics, journalists, writers, and critics. Carried Away - Alice Munro 2006-09-26 WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 Carried Away is a dazzling selection of stories—seventeen favorites chosen by the author from across her distinguished career. With an Introduction by Margaret Atwood. Alice Munro has been repeatedly hailed as one of our greatest living writers, a reputation that has been growing for years. The stories brought together here span a quarter century, drawn from some of her earliest books, *The Beggar Maid* and *The Moons of Jupiter*, through her recent best-selling collection, *Runaway*. Here are such favorites as “Royal Beatings” in which a young girl, her father, and stepmother release

the tension of their circumstances in a ritual of punishment and reconciliation; “Friend of My Youth” in which a woman comes to understand that her difficult mother is not so very different from herself; and “The Albanian Virgin,” a romantic tale of capture and escape in Central Europe that may or may not be true but that nevertheless comforts the hearer, who is on a desperate adventure of her own. Munro’s incomparable empathy for her characters, the depth of her understanding of human nature, and the grace and surprise of her narrative add up to a richly layered and capacious fiction. Like the World War I soldier in the title story, whose letters from the front to a small-town librarian he doesn’t know change her life

forever, Munro's unassuming characters insinuate themselves in our hearts and take permanent hold.

Open Secrets: Stories -

Alice Munro 1995-11-01

In her latest collection of stories, Munro evokes the devastating power of old love suddenly recollected, in tales that resonate with sorrow, humor, and wisdom, and confirm her reputation as a living master of the genre.

"Dazzles with its faith in language and in life".--New York Times Book Review.

**Dance of the Happy**

**Shades** - Alice Munro

2011-12-21

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE

2013 In these fifteen short stories--her eighth collection of short stories in a long and distinguished career--Alice Munro conjures ordinary lives with an extraordinary

vision, displaying the remarkable talent for which she is now widely celebrated. Set on farms, by river marshes, in the lonely towns and new suburbs of western Ontario, these tales are luminous acts of attention to those vivid moments when revelation emerges from the layers of experience that lie behind even the most everyday events and lives. "Virtuosity, elemental command, incisive like a diamond, remarkable: all these descriptions fit Alice Munro."--Christian Science Monitor "How does one know when one is in the grip of art--of a major talent?...It is art that speaks from the pages of Alice Munro's stories."--Wall Street Journal

**Alice Munro's Narrative**

**Art** - I. Duncan

2011-11-21

Among the first critical works on Alice Munro's

writing, this study of her short fiction is informed by the disciplines of narratology and literary linguistics. Through examining Munro's narrative art, Isla Duncan demonstrates a rich understanding of the complex, densely layered, often unsettling stories.

**Alice Munro: Writing Her Lives** - Robert Thacker  
2011-05-03

This is the book about one of the world's great authors, Alice Munro, which shows how her life and her stories intertwine. For almost thirty years Robert Thacker has been researching this book, steeping himself in Alice Munro's life and work, working with her co-operation to make it complete. The result is a feast of information for Alice Munro's admirers everywhere. By following "the parallel

tracks" of Alice Munro's life and Alice Munro's texts, he gives a thorough and revealing account of both her life and work. "There is always a starting point in reality," she once said of her stories, and this book reveals just how often her stories spring from her life. The book is chronological, starting with her pioneer ancestors, but with special attention paid to her parents and to her early days growing up poor in Wingham. Then all of her life stages – the marriage to Jim Munro, the move to Vancouver, then to Victoria to start the bookstore, the three daughters, the divorce, the return to Huron County, and the new life with Gerry Fremlin – leading to the triumphs as, story by story, book by book, she gains fame around the world, until

rumours of a Nobel Prize circulate . . .

*The Fiction of Alice*

Munro - Brad Hooper 2008

As a short-story writer, Alice Munro has achieved high critical and popular regard in both her native Canada and in the United States.

Indeed, Munro has been adopted by the entire English-speaking world as one of its own, and her work has received many awards and honors. In the U.S., she is roundly regarded as one of the best--if not the best--contemporary writers of the short story, and one of the greatest living fiction writers. Here, Brad Hooper takes readers through her fiction, work by work, discussing the themes, forms, techniques, and styles she employs to make her work come alive. Munro has founded her own brand of the short story: longer than

traditionally practiced in the short-story form and encompassing broader time frames. Her stories are primarily character studies that explore the impact of physical and mental isolation in adolescence, middle age, and into elder years.

Hooper traces Munro's evolving definition of the short story form and surveys the fiction in an effort to elucidate the works for newcomers and enthusiasts alike.

*Open Secrets* - Alice Munro 2014-05-21

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 'A superb collection...

Marriage, gambles, disappearances, motiveless vandalism - it is the stuff of unremarkable lives, conveyed in a remarkable fashion' Independent Open Secrets, Alice Munro's eighth book, consists of eight luminous and poetic stories, each one as



rich as a novel. Ranging from the 1850s through two world wars to the present, and from Canada to Brisbane, the Balkans and the Somme, these dazzling stories reveal the secrets of unconventional women who refuse to be contained. 'Brilliant at evoking life's diversity and unpredictability...an unrivalled chronicler of human nature' The Sunday Times

*No Love Lost* - Alice Munro 2003-04-08

Alice Munro is universally acknowledged as the finest short fiction writer in English. Bringing together ten incomparable stories from six different collections, *No Love Lost* confirms her pre-eminent status. Focusing on the many paths of falling in love, each of these stories of ordinary people reveals new truths about people

as real – and as extraordinary – as ourselves. In selecting this unique gathering of stories, Jane Urquhart noted the brilliance of Munro's fiction, suggesting that Munro's genius guides us "through love's labyrinth, insisting all the while that we keep our eyes wide open to its complicated foliage, its shadows, its piercing blasts of light." Contents: *Bardon Bus* (from *The Moons of Jupiter*) *Carried Away* (from *Open Secrets*) *Mischief* (from *Who Do You Think You Are?*) *The Love of a Good Woman* (from *The Love of a Good Woman*) *Simon's Luck* (from *Who Do You Think You Are?*), *Hateship*, *Friendship*, *Courtship*, *Loveship*, *Marriage* (from *Hateship*, *Friendship*, *Courtship*, *Loveship*, *Marriage*) *The Bear Came Over the Mountain* (from *Hateship*, *Friendship*,

Courtship, Loveship,  
Marriage) The Albanian  
Virgin (from Open  
Secrets) Meneseteung  
(from Friend of My  
Youth) The Children Stay  
(from The Love of a Good  
Woman)

**Open Secrets** - Alice  
Munro 2011-06-01  
Open Secrets, Alice  
Munro's eighth book,  
consists of eight  
matchless stories, each  
one as rich as a full  
novel. All of them  
provide compulsive  
reading – and rewarding  
re-reading. "Perhaps you  
will be surprised to  
hear from a person you  
don't know and that  
doesn't remember your  
name." These intriguing  
words begin a letter  
dated 1917 to the  
Librarian in Carstairs,  
Ontario (the heart of  
"Alice Munro Country").  
The letter sweeps us  
away into a world of  
secrets and revelations  
where nothing – not even  
a courtship by letter

that leads, over time,  
to a solid marriage – is  
as it originally seems.  
The Ontario stories  
range from "A Wilderness  
Station," which gives an  
account of an 1852 tree-  
felling accident and  
sheds light on the harsh  
life of the pioneers,  
all the way to the  
present, where family  
names known to us appear  
again in a world of TV  
shows and snowmobiles.  
Just as the stories  
range back and forth in  
time, they also travel  
far to distant settings.  
Much of "The Albanian  
Virgin" is set in a  
remote mountain area  
where a Canadian tourist  
in the 1920s is captured  
by bandits; her tale of  
escape is comforting to  
a Victoria bookseller  
escaping from her own  
former life. "The Jack  
Randa Hotel" brings a  
deserted wife in cold  
pursuit to Australia,  
which leads to another  
intriguing letter. "Dear

Mrs. Thornaby, It has come to my attention that you are dead..." Things that cannot be explained happen here. In the title story a lawyer's wife has a flash of insight – illogical, unprovable and terrifying – into the fate of a missing teenager; in another, the appearance of a long-dead visitor

reveals the grip of a former love. Yet the true magic lies in the way that Alice Munro makes everything here – unexpected marriages, elopements, acts of sudden vengeance – unfold with the ease of the inevitable. This is the mark of a great writer, and it is stamped on every page of this book.