



The High Places: Stories

Fiona McFarlane

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What a terrible thing at a time like this: to own a house, and the trees around it. Janet sat rigid in her seat. The plane lifted from the city and her house fell away, consumed by the other houses. Janet worried about her own particular garden and her emptied refrigerator and her lamps that had been timed to come on at six.

So begins "Mycenae," a story in *The High Places*, Fiona McFarlane's first story collection. Her stories skip across continents, eras, and genres to chart the borderlands of emotional life. In "Mycenae," she describes a middle-aged couple's disastrous vacation with old friends. In "Good News for Modern Man," a scientist lives on a small island with only a colossal squid and the ghost of Charles Darwin for company. And in the title story, an Australian farmer turns to Old Testament methods to relieve a fatal drought. Each story explores what Flannery O'Connor called "mystery and manners." The collection dissects the feelings--longing, contempt, love, fear--that animate our existence and hints at a reality beyond the smallness of our lives.

Salon's Laura Miller called McFarlane's *The Night Guest* "a novel of uncanny emotional penetration . . . How could anyone so young portray so persuasively what it feels like to look back on a lot more life than you can see in front of you?" *The High Places* is further evidence of McFarlane's preternatural talent, a debut collection that reads like the selected works of a literary great.

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From reader reviews:

Susan Metcalf:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the e-book untitled The High Places: Stories can be very good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Elaine Rochelle:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book The High Places: Stories it is quite good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

Janet Kline:

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Richard Lamm:

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