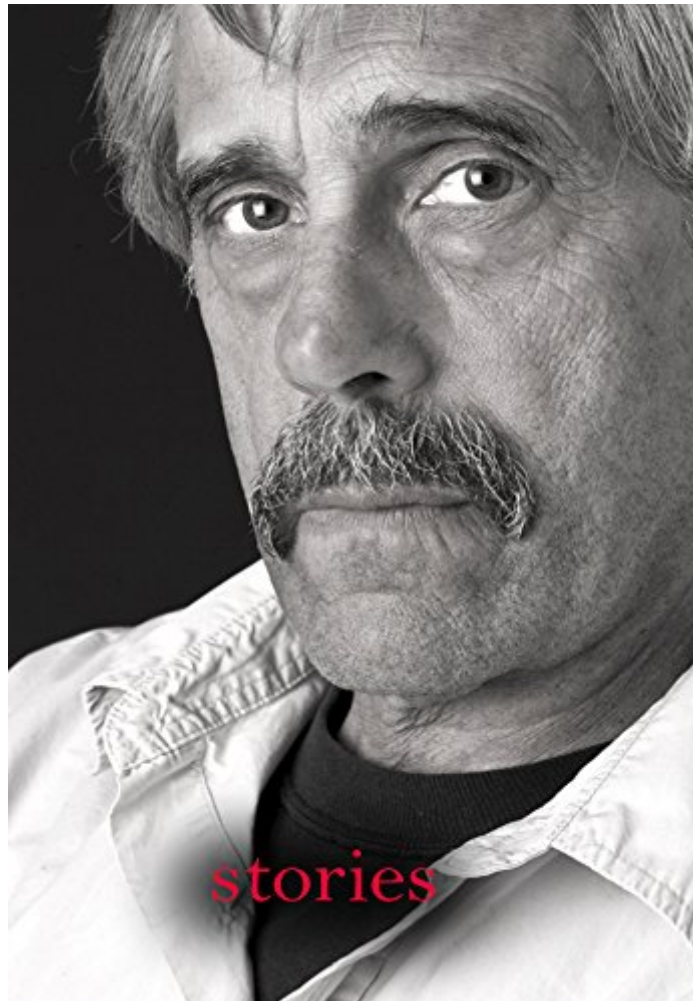


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Not Since Mark Twain - Stories: Newly Revised



Synopsis

"Not since Mark Twain has a writer presented classic American storytelling so honestly. Hausman is at his best with this collection, truly entertaining." - Hilary Hemingway, author of "Hemingway in Cuba"

The stories in NOT SINCE MARK TWAIN are a fleeting look at American life, primarily on the road, but sometimes on or in the water, and have been collected by Gerald Hausman since 1965. Some of the tales are very brief and may be called "sudden stories". Many of them deal with human survival - an autistic boy lost in a trackless swamp; a young woman who falls in love with a supernatural creature; a young man who finds himself by finding his horse. Some of the tales are mere messages left on a cell phone. Others, like the story "Bimini Blue" tell about a Navajo healing ceremony given to a famous author who committed suicide. There are stories of ghosts, demons, fearsome predators, and wise old men who take the innocent in hand and lead them on the road to wisdom. These are tales of innocence and anguish, fantasy and fable, humor and heart. In them we hear the voices of a lost America - an America of folk heroes fading fast from view and crying out to be heard.

SOME OF THE STORIES

- A Real Life Goliath
- The Horse of the Navajo
- Lady Bug Blues
- Big Fat Harry Toe
- A Tree Frog Named Houdini
- Just Like Geronimo
- The Ancient Itch
- Man Taken Aboard UFO
- Pirate Breath
- Snail
- Rattlesnake Pete, Goiter Healer
- Of Lions and Men

THE AUTHOR

Gerald Hausman, author of over 70 books, has traveled widely in America as a professional storyteller and public speaker. His work in Native American studies has been aired on radio coast-to-coast and cited in The New York Times and many other national and international publications. Mr. Hausman has received 35 awards and honors from the American Folklore Society; Bank Street College; New York Public Library; National Council of Social Studies; Parents Choice; Children's Book Council; Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children for his books, some of which have been adapted for film, many of which have been used in classrooms around the world. His collection of Native American origin stories, "How Chipmunk Got Tiny Feet" has reached over one million readers and his numerous books about Bob Marley, co-authored by Cedella Marley, have been reprinted each year since the 1990s. Mr. Hausman has been called "a native of the world" by teachers and educators in all walks of life.

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Customer Reviews

This author has been collecting stories since 1965. He loved to listen to stories which he scribbled down and later retold on paper. These tales focus on every aspect of American life. As I was reading them, I had the distinct feeling that I was sitting around a campfire listening to a storytelling master. Hausman has won numerous awards for his yarns, which speak of ghosts, demons, fantasy, humor, truths, and everyday life. The author divides his tales into sections like Heroes, On the Road, Humor, Reflections, Out of this World, Moments of Truth, and Yarns. He has been compared to Mark Twain. The reader feels as if he is there in the story. Some stories will inspire you like the tale about an autistic child who survived a struggle in the swamp, some of them portray the legends of Native Americans as in The Horse of the Navajo or the bravery of a father and son in A Real Life Goliath. The Discussion Questions that Hausman suggests are a wonderful beginning for students or book groups to use as a jumping off point for further exploration of the subject matter in individual stories. These questions could also be the basis of interesting essays on many topics. Teachers might want to use them in connection with other curriculum areas. The questions also assist in understanding the deeper layers of culture surrounding them. Finally, the author interview included at the end of the collection provides insight into why the author is so successful as a storyteller, lecturer and writer. Recommended for readers age eight and older, all those who love to tell stories or listen to them!

I enjoyed nearly all of Gerald Hausman's stories tremendously. They often transported me to a world previously unexplored, and with numerous imaginative twists and surprises mixed in.

One great story after another with wonderful variety. One minute I'm reading about a young David who faced his own real-life Goliath, then a heart-deep tale of a Navajo horseman, then a story by a lost child. One great tale after another. I kept reading "just one more". The tale of the young boy with autism who was lost in a swamp and lived to tell about it was very special. Those who live with an outspoken animal will enjoy the story of George. The story about his parents brought a wistful smile. One story after another, I'm hard pressed to choose a favorite story. Definitely would read more by this author and it is one of the few e-books I'd love to have in print on my own shelves. This would have been enjoyable to read aloud to my girls when they were small. I used my Kindle for PC to read the book which was a free download.

Although I was reading these stories, I could just hear the voice of a storyteller in my head. These aren't just short stories, they are evocative tales and legends, doorways to other worlds, new ways of looking at our own world. Even though they are grounded in our real world, they always leave open the possibility of things being other than they seem. I especially love the little introductions that Hausman has given for each story, in which he tells us, the 'listener', how he received the story, where he might have told the story and to whom, what it might have meant to him and to them. The oral tradition is so wonderful because the storyteller makes a direct connection to the listener (or 'hearer' as I like to put it), there is a real communication going on, not simply a recitation, but a real back and forth. This little book almost captures that same kind of intimacy.

Hausman is a master. No question there. The American Storybag exemplifies this fact. Wonderful folklore, fantastic anecdotes, poetry at times and always poetry in prose. There's something for everyone here, stories to open the eyes, ears, heart, and soul. My personal favorite section is On the Road: It's Hausman sprinkled with just a pinch of Kerouac and a dash of Saroyan, and great titles like "The Billboard at the End of the World" and "The Railroad Oil Field Cotton Boll Blues". Educational, entertaining, thoughtful and reflective. I love Gerald Hausman's work, and have for many years. If you've read his work before, I know you'll love this one. And if you haven't, this is a really good one to start with. I can't recommend this one enough.

Thank you

Before the world there was the thought of the world. Before the beginning there was a story about the beginning. The story precedes the beginning, and then follows along in the telling as time opens each event envelope and reveals what happens next. You are a story, I am a story, we are all a story and all the stories are important, because we made them and continue to make them and because they tell us about ourselves. We learn from the stories of others as we apply the lessons to our own story. Gerald Hausman in his Storybag recounts dozens of stories from different places and times, from myth and magic, life and learning, that show we all learn from each other, and all the stories validate our own.

I so enjoyed all the American Storybag stories!! especially loved reading the personal ones about Ernest Hemingway and the Blessingway, George the Parrot, the Tree Frog and of course, Jesus on Horseback. I loved all the stories - all the mythology, the dreams, the visions, the ghosts. I also thought the writing story with friend Roger Zalazny - was incredibly touching and fascinating about writing. How lucky for us that Gerald Hausman shares these treasures of his life with us. This wondrous, magical, folkloric collection is meant to be sipped slowly and savored!

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