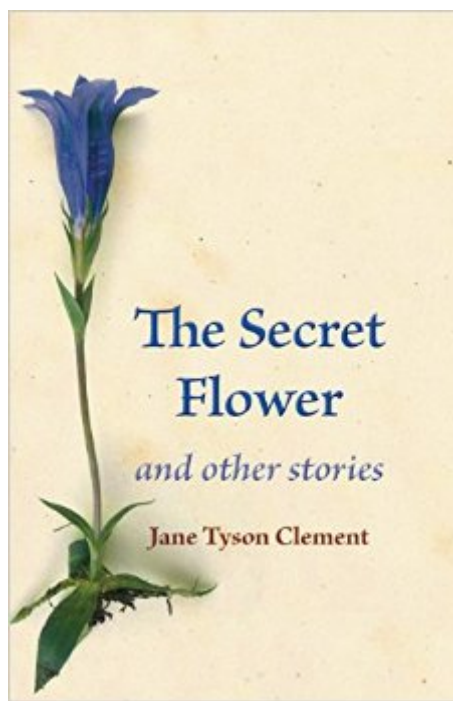


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The Secret Flower: And Other Stories



Synopsis

It won't take you long to see why Jane Tyson Clement's short stories have become perennial favorites for adults and children alike. Written with a measured beauty that recalls Tolstoy and Tolkien, these tales are rich in allegorical symbolism and evocation of mood. They are infused throughout with the thrill of expectancy, a sense that something new is on the way, and a certainty that God is seeking us, just as we seek him. In an age where cleverness often counts more than substance, Clement's stories offer a break from all the noise.

Book Information

Paperback: 168 pages

Publisher: Plough Publishing House (May 25, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0874869951

ISBN-13: 978-0874869958

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

"And so I travel homeward, though I have never seen that city- yet I will know it, and its fair meadows are even now green with winter wheat before my eyes, and I hear its children singing in the streets, and its quiet bell proclaiming God's love."~The Secret Flower
Jane Tyson Clement's volume of poetry "No One Can Stem the Tide" overflows with both reflection and contentment. Her verse convinced me to read her prose, as collected in "The Secret Flower: And other Short Stories." This book is made of six tales, five short and one lengthy. The first five are beautifully mythic, according to the old definition of myth... a fable that seems to be from an imagined world, but tells us truth about our world. One tells of three brothers who each take shelter during a night of terrible storms, stoking their fire and supping alone. Each brother locks out the weather and the cold, only to hear a child's cry through the wind and rain. And each man must decide whether he will risk his life and venture out into the wild darkness to rescue the child. One tells of a King who rules a

land where there is always abundance and never rebellion, where a soporific peace lies over everyone. He and his people never feel pain or suffer, but they never feel joy or celebrate either. Work has no satisfying meaning, and there is no true need to serve anyone. All is lukewarm and acceptable each day... there is no variation to make you more glad or more regretful. The veil is torn away from the King's eyes the day a young traveler arrives, coming from a land in famine, and the King burns himself on his coffee. One tells of a troop of schoolboys who love a robin that is pure white but tease a boy whose skin is deep black.

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