Introduction to Selected Short Stories

by Ory Castel-Bloom

Reviews of the short stories and novels of Ory Castel-Bloom have

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A Thousand Shells a Story

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On the shore, for you—Dear friend, another friend—what do you want of me? I don't understand you.

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On the shore, for you—Dear friend, another friend—what do you want of me? I don't understand you.
There you go. A few carrots, she asked.

"Take whatever you want," I said.

"Thank you," said the bank clerk.

If there's anything you want here, said my husband with a smile.

"If there is anything," I said.

"So what?" she said.

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"What do you have?" she said.

"Coffee," I said.

He looked at me and asked, "Is that what you made the coffee for?"

"You know," she said to him, "you make exactly good coffee."

"You know," he said to her, "I don't like it."

"Why don't you have it?" she said.

"I never asked," I said.

And she walked away and stuck her nose up in the air.

The bank clerk came over to me, and I asked him to make a cup of coffee, saying it was not fair to me.

He made a cup of coffee and gave it to me.

"We are your daughter," I asked.

"What is our daughter?" I asked.

"Whatever he says," I said.

And we left the bank.

I said, "My husband's a genius."

I said, "My neighbors have a drink..."
Looking for a Walkie-Talkie

The Woman Who Went

Once upon a time, there was a woman who went on a quest to find her lost Walkie-Talkie. She had bought it from a friend and it had a special feature: it could communicate with other Walkie-Talkies.

She searched high and low, checking everyPossible phone shop and radio store in the city. She even asked her neighbors if they had seen it. But no luck.

One day, while walking through the park, she noticed a group of children playing with Walkie-Talkies. She approached them and asked if they had seen her Walkie-Talkie. To her surprise, one of the children had it! She thanked them and took it back.

Since then, she has used the Walkie-Talkie to stay in touch with her friends and family. It has become an important part of her life. She even started a club for others who have lost their Walkie-Talkies.

The moral of the story is to always keep your important items safe and with you at all times. And if you do lose something, don't give up hope! You might just find it in the most unexpected places.
The woman whose hand got stuck in the mailbox.

At all costs.

—Transcribed by Paula Bloom (1961)
You see the woman sad, overwrought, the ticket in her hand, and a check for a few thousand dollars, and the woman opened it in a surge of joy, and inside there was a check of the same amount. Yes, it was a letter, and the neighbor brought a check, and together they were in a state of union. The neighbor knocked on the door, and together they were in a state of union. The woman said, "Thank you, neighbor." The neighbor replied, "You're welcome, neighbor." "But do you suggest that the woman should go to the mailbox?" "Before you go to the mailbox, the neighbor suggested, "You'd better keep an eye on your mailbox."