short fiction of kurt vonnegut

Exploring the Short Fiction of Kurt Vonnegut: A Journey Through Satire, Science Fiction, and Humanity

short fiction of kurt vonnegut holds a special place in American literature, capturing the imagination of readers with its unique blend of dark humor, biting satire, and profound human insight. While Vonnegut is often celebrated for his novels like *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Cat's Cradle*, his short stories offer an equally compelling glimpse into his creative genius. If you're diving into the world of Vonnegut's short fiction, prepare to encounter a rich tapestry of narratives that challenge societal norms, explore futuristic ideas, and probe deeply into the human condition—all wrapped in an accessible and often playful style.

The Distinctive Style of Kurt Vonnegut's Short Fiction

Vonnegut's short stories are instantly recognizable thanks to their conversational tone and inventive storytelling. Unlike the sprawling narratives of his novels, his short fiction often distills his themes into sharper, more concentrated bursts of meaning. The short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut frequently employs satirical elements to critique modern society, war, and technology, blending science fiction with absurdist humor to provoke thought without overwhelming the reader.

Blending Science Fiction with Social Commentary

One of the hallmarks of Vonnegut's short stories is the seamless integration of science fiction tropes with social and political commentary. Stories like "Harrison Bergeron" and "Welcome to the Monkey House" are prime examples where futuristic or speculative settings serve as a backdrop for exploring issues such as government control, equality, and the ethics of technology. This approach invites readers not just to enjoy imaginative worlds, but also to reflect critically on the real world.

Humor and Humanity in Vonnegut's Short Stories

Despite often addressing heavy topics like war, death, and existential despair, Vonnegut's short fiction is characterized by a distinctive humor. His wit ranges from subtle irony to outright absurdity, making the stories engaging and accessible. The humor doesn't detract from the seriousness of his themes; rather, it humanizes his characters and makes the philosophical questions more approachable. This balance is a key reason why the short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut continues to resonate with a broad audience.

Notable Collections of Vonnegut's Short Fiction

For readers interested in exploring Vonnegut's short stories, several collections stand out as

essential reading. These anthologies showcase the breadth of his work and highlight his evolution as a writer.

"Welcome to the Monkey House" (1968)

This collection is perhaps the most famous compilation of Vonnegut's short fiction. It includes some of his best-known stories such as the eponymous "Welcome to the Monkey House," which delves into themes of population control and personal freedom, and "Harrison Bergeron," a dystopian tale about enforced equality. The stories in this volume reflect Vonnegut's concerns during the 1960s, especially regarding government overreach and the dehumanizing effects of technology.

"Bagombo Snuff Box" (1999)

Published posthumously, *Bagombo Snuff Box* gathers many of Vonnegut's earlier short stories, written mostly in the 1950s and 1960s. These stories often exhibit a more experimental style and provide insight into the development of his unique voice. They also reveal Vonnegut's early engagement with themes like absurdity in everyday life, the randomness of fate, and the quirks of human behavior.

Themes and Motifs in Vonnegut's Short Fiction

Understanding the recurring themes in Vonnegut's short fiction can deepen readers' appreciation of his work. His stories often circle around a few core ideas, making them timeless and universally relevant.

The Absurdity of War and Violence

Vonnegut's experiences as a soldier and prisoner of war during World War II profoundly shaped his worldview. Many of his short stories critique the senselessness of war, exposing its brutality and futility with a mix of grim realism and dark humor. For instance, "The Foster Portfolio" touches on the aftermath of violence and the lingering scars it leaves behind.

Free Will Versus Determinism

Another prominent theme is the tension between free will and fate. Vonnegut often questions whether individuals can shape their own destinies or are merely caught in a deterministic universe. This motif appears repeatedly, encouraging readers to consider the limits of human agency in a complex and sometimes indifferent world.

Technology and Dehumanization

In many of his short stories, Vonnegut warns about the dangers of unchecked technological advancement. His speculative fiction often imagines futures where technology contributes to alienation, loss of individuality, or ethical dilemmas. These narratives continue to feel relevant today as society grapples with rapid technological changes.

Why Read the Short Fiction of Kurt Vonnegut?

For both newcomers and longtime fans, Vonnegut's short fiction offers several benefits that enrich the reading experience.

- **Concise yet profound:** The brevity of short stories allows Vonnegut to deliver powerful messages without requiring the time commitment of a novel.
- Accessible entry point: The engaging style and humor make these stories an excellent introduction to Vonnegut's worldview.
- **Varied exploration of themes:** Readers can encounter a wide range of topics, from dystopian futures to personal tragedies, all within a relatively short span.
- **Inspiration for writers:** Vonnegut's inventive narrative techniques and voice serve as valuable lessons for aspiring authors in crafting impactful short fiction.

Tips for Appreciating Vonnegut's Short Fiction

To truly appreciate the nuances of Vonnegut's stories, consider the following approaches:

- 1. **Read with context:** Familiarize yourself with the historical and cultural backdrop of the mid-20th century to better understand the references and critiques.
- 2. **Pay attention to tone:** Vonnegut's humor often masks deeper messages, so look beyond the surface laughter to uncover the serious commentary.
- 3. **Reflect on the themes:** Take time to ponder the ethical and philosophical questions raised, as they often remain relevant decades later.
- 4. **Discuss with others:** Sharing interpretations in book clubs or online forums can uncover new perspectives and enrich your reading experience.

The Lasting Impact of Vonnegut's Short Fiction

The short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut continues to influence writers, thinkers, and readers worldwide. His ability to fuse humor with critical insight into society has set a high standard for speculative fiction and satire alike. Beyond entertainment, Vonnegut's stories challenge us to examine our values, our fears, and our hopes for the future.

Many contemporary authors cite Vonnegut's short stories as a source of inspiration, praising his skillful balance of accessibility and depth. Moreover, educators often include his short fiction in curricula to encourage critical thinking and discussions about ethics, technology, and human nature.

Whether you're a fan of science fiction, social satire, or literary short stories, exploring the short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut is a rewarding journey—one that invites you not only to laugh and ponder but also to connect with the shared complexities of being human.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of the most famous short fiction works by Kurt Vonnegut?

Some of the most famous short fiction works by Kurt Vonnegut include "Welcome to the Monkey House," "Harrison Bergeron," and "EPICAC." These stories showcase his signature blend of satire, science fiction, and dark humor.

What themes are commonly explored in Kurt Vonnegut's short fiction?

Kurt Vonnegut's short fiction often explores themes such as the absurdity of war, the impact of technology on humanity, free will versus determinism, and critiques of societal norms and government control.

How does Vonnegut's writing style in his short stories differ from his novels?

Vonnegut's short stories tend to be more concise and focused, often using sharp satire and irony. While his novels are more expansive and complex, his short fiction delivers powerful messages with brevity and wit.

What is the significance of Vonnegut's story "Harrison Bergeron" in short fiction?

"Harrison Bergeron" is significant for its dystopian portrayal of enforced equality taken to the extreme. It critiques government overreach and the suppression of individuality, making it a widely studied and referenced work in short fiction.

Where can readers find a comprehensive collection of Kurt Vonnegut's short stories?

Readers can find a comprehensive collection of Kurt Vonnegut's short stories in the anthology "Welcome to the Monkey House," which includes many of his notable short fiction pieces.

How does Vonnegut use science fiction elements in his short stories?

Vonnegut uses science fiction elements in his short stories to explore complex social and philosophical issues. He employs futuristic settings, technology, and speculative scenarios to satirize human nature and societal flaws.

What impact did Vonnegut's experiences in World War II have on his short fiction?

Vonnegut's experiences as a prisoner of war during World War II deeply influenced his short fiction, especially in stories that deal with the horrors of war, such as "Report on the Barnhouse Effect" and others that reflect on the absurdity and tragedy of conflict.

Are Kurt Vonnegut's short stories suitable for academic study?

Yes, Kurt Vonnegut's short stories are widely studied in academic settings for their rich thematic content, innovative narrative style, and social critique. Stories like "Harrison Bergeron" and those in "Welcome to the Monkey House" are frequently included in literature curricula.

Additional Resources

The Enduring Appeal of the Short Fiction of Kurt Vonnegut

Short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut occupies a distinctive place in American literature, blending satire, dark humor, and speculative elements that reflect the anxieties and absurdities of the 20th century. Renowned primarily for his novels like *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Cat's Cradle*, Vonnegut's short stories reveal a concentrated distillation of his thematic concerns and narrative style. This article explores the characteristics, impact, and legacy of Vonnegut's short fiction, offering a detailed investigation into why these works continue to resonate with readers and scholars alike.

Exploring the Craft of Kurt Vonnegut's Short Fiction

Vonnegut's short stories exemplify his ability to compress complex ideas into concise narratives without sacrificing depth or emotional resonance. Unlike his novels, which often meander through time and space with intricate plots and recurring characters, his short fiction tends to be more immediate, striking, and experimental. The brevity of the form allows Vonnegut to adopt sharper satirical edges, often honing in on dystopian visions, critiques of war, and the absurdity of human

nature.

Many of Vonnegut's short stories were published between the 1950s and the 1980s in magazines such as *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Collier's*, and *Playboy*, reflecting his engagement with popular culture and contemporary issues. These stories frequently employ science fiction tropes, a hallmark of his style, but with an unmistakable humanistic core that questions morality, free will, and the consequences of technological progress.

Recurring Themes in Vonnegut's Short Fiction

A critical analysis of Vonnegut's short fiction reveals a set of recurrent themes that underscore his worldview:

- War and Its Absurdity: Many stories, like *"2 B R 0 2 B"* and *"Harrison Bergeron,"* illustrate the futility and devastation wrought by conflict and authoritarianism.
- **Technological Dystopia:** Vonnegut imagines futures where technology exacerbates human alienation rather than alleviating it, often using irony to expose societal flaws.
- **Humanism and Free Will:** Despite bleak settings, his narratives typically advocate for individual dignity and ethical responsibility.
- **Dark Humor and Satire:** Vonnegut's wit permeates his tales, providing levity while critiquing social norms and political ideologies.

Stylistic Features and Narrative Techniques

Vonnegut's distinctive narrative voice shines through his short fiction. His prose is characterized by:

- **Economy of Language:** The short story format demands precision, and Vonnegut's sentences are often simple yet layered with meaning.
- **Nonlinear Storytelling:** Even within limited word counts, he experiments with time and perspective, inviting readers to piece together fragmented narratives.
- **Blending Genres:** His stories merge science fiction, satire, and social commentary, defying traditional genre boundaries.
- **Engaging Dialogue:** Conversations often reveal character psychology and thematic undercurrents with sharpness and clarity.

These stylistic choices contribute to the enduring relevance of Vonnegut's short fiction, making them accessible yet intellectually stimulating.

Notable Works and Their Impact

Among Kurt Vonnegut's extensive short fiction portfolio, several works stand out for their innovation and cultural significance:

"2 B R 0 2 B"

This dystopian tale confronts the ethics of population control in a future society where life and death are strictly regulated. The story's title, a play on Shakespeare's "To be or not to be," encapsulates its existential inquiry. Critics have praised the story's chilling depiction of utopian ideals gone awry, highlighting Vonnegut's capacity to provoke thought through compact storytelling.

"Welcome to the Monkey House"

The titular story from the collection *Welcome to the Monkey House* explores themes of conformity and governmental control over human sexuality. It combines dark humor with a sharp critique of societal attempts to suppress individuality. This story, along with others in the collection, cements Vonnegut's reputation as a master of speculative fiction with a moral conscience.

"Harrison Bergeron"

Though sometimes attributed to Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron" is actually a work by Kurt Vonnegut's contemporary, Kurt Vonnegut often gets mistakenly credited for this story due to thematic similarities. Nonetheless, Vonnegut's own short fiction includes comparable explorations of enforced equality and its dystopian consequences, reflecting the zeitgeist of mid-20th-century political anxieties.

The Place of Vonnegut's Short Fiction in Literary History

Vonnegut's short fiction occupies an important niche that intersects the golden age of American short stories with the rise of speculative and science fiction as serious literary genres. His work challenged the boundaries between "literary" and "genre" fiction, paving the way for later writers who sought to blend serious social critique with imaginative storytelling.

His stories have been included in numerous anthologies and continue to be studied in academic settings, often alongside other influential short story writers like Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick, and Shirley Jackson. The adaptability of his stories into various media, including radio plays and graphic adaptations, speaks to their narrative strength and cultural resonance.

Comparative Insights: Vonnegut vs. Contemporary Short Fiction Writers

While contemporaries such as J.D. Salinger and Flannery O'Connor focused on psychological realism and the human condition in everyday settings, Vonnegut's short fiction is marked by its speculative edge and satirical tone. This distinction allowed him to reach audiences interested in both literary artistry and genre innovation.

His ability to merge humor with profound social commentary set a precedent, influencing modern authors like Neil Gaiman and Margaret Atwood, who similarly blend genres to explore complex themes.

Accessibility and Relevance in the Digital Age

The short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut has gained renewed attention with the rise of digital platforms that favor shorter, impactful storytelling. Online literary magazines and reading apps have introduced his stories to new generations, often highlighting their prescience in light of contemporary global challenges such as technological surveillance, bioethics, and political polarization.

Moreover, Vonnegut's approachable style and universal themes make his short fiction an excellent entry point for readers unfamiliar with his longer works. Educators frequently incorporate his stories into curricula to engage students with critical thinking about society and human nature.

Advantages and Limitations of Vonnegut's Short Fiction

- Advantages: Compactness, thematic clarity, innovative use of science fiction, and enduring social relevance.
- **Limitations:** Some stories may feel dated due to mid-20th-century cultural references; occasionally, the brevity limits deeper character development compared to his novels.

Yet, these limitations often enhance the stories' impact, forcing readers to engage actively with implied meanings and broader contexts.

The short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut remains a vital component of his literary legacy, offering incisive glimpses into his worldview and artistic vision. Through these stories, Vonnegut continues to challenge, entertain, and provoke reflection, underscoring the enduring power of the short story form in capturing the complexities of human experience.

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short fiction of kurt vonnegut: The Short Fiction of Kurt Vonnegut Peter Reed,

1997-10-30 Kurt Vonnegut's career as a novelist encompasses virtually the whole second half of the twentieth century, and his novels are among the most widely read in America. Yet Vonnegut enjoyed another successful career as a short story writer. His short fiction brought him much acclaim in the early years of his writing career and made him visible to a very large audience. His stories were illustrated by some of the best artists in the business and were featured prominently in leading magazines such as Collier's he Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home Journal, Cosmopolitan, and Argosy. Commentary on Vonnegut has generally separated his career as a novelist from his career as a short story writer. This volume provides a detailed analysis of Vonnegut's short fiction and shows that his short stories are an integral part of his overall canon. The short stories do not simply precede Vonnegut's novels. There is an extensive overlap of the publication of his novels and his shorter works. In writing short fiction, Vonnegut learned and practiced many of the skills and techniques that he employs in his novels. This volume begins by examining the relationship of the short fiction to the larger body of Vonnegut's writings. It then examines Vonnegut's earliest training as a writer, during his high school years and as a college journalist. The chapters that follow are then devoted to later periods in his life, the development of his short stories, and the recurrence of their techniques and content in Vonnegut's novels. The study concludes with a reassessment of the importance of the short story to Vonnegut's canon.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: Complete Stories Kurt Vonnegut, 2017-09-26 Here for the first time is the complete short fiction of one of the twentieth century's foremost imaginative geniuses. More than half of Vonnegut's output was short fiction, and never before has the world had occasion to wrestle with it all together. Organized thematically—War, Women, Science, Romance, Work Ethic versus Fame and Fortune, Behavior, The Band Director (those stories featuring Lincoln High's band director and nice guy George Hemholtz), and Futuristic—these ninety-eight stories were written from 1941 to 2007, and include those Vonnegut published in magazines and collected in Welcome to the Monkey House, Bagombo Snuff Box, and other books; here for the first time five previously unpublished stories; as well as a handful of others that were published online and read by few. During his lifetime Vonnegut published fewer than half of the stories he wrote, his agent telling him in 1958 upon the rejection of a particularly strong story, Save it for the collection of your works which will be published someday when you become famous. Which may take a little time. Selected and introduced by longtime Vonnegut friends and scholars Dan Wakefield and Jerome Klinkowitz, Complete Stories puts Vonnegut's great wit, humor, humanity, and artistry on full display. An extraordinary literary feast for new readers, Vonnegut fans, and scholars alike.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: Look at the Birdie Kurt Vonnegut, 2009-10-20 "Relentlessly fun to read."—Dave Eggers • A collection of fourteen previously unpublished short stories from one of the most original writers in all of American fiction In this series of perfectly rendered vignettes, written just as he was starting to find his comic voice, Kurt Vonnegut paints a warm, wise, and funny portrait of life in post-World War II America—a world where squabbling couples, high school geniuses, misfit office workers, and small-town lotharios struggle to adapt to changing technology, moral ambiguity, and unprecedented affluence. Here are tales both cautionary and hopeful, each brimming with Vonnegut's trademark humor and profound humanism. A family learns the downside of confiding their deepest secrets into a magical invention. A man finds himself in a Kafkaesque

world of trouble after he runs afoul of the shady underworld boss who calls the shots in an upstate New York town. A quack psychiatrist turned "murder counselor" concocts a novel new outlet for his paranoid patients. While these stories reflect the anxieties of the postwar era that Vonnegut was so adept at capturing—and provide insight into the development of his early style—collectively, they have a timeless quality that makes them just as relevant today as when they were written. It's impossible to imagine any of these pieces flowing from the pen of another writer; each in its own way is unmistakably, guintessentially Vonnegut. Featuring a foreword by author and longtime Vonnegut confidant Sidney Offit and illustrated with Vonnegut's characteristically insouciant line drawings, Look at the Birdie is an unexpected gift for readers who thought his unique voice had been stilled forever—and serves as a terrific introduction to his short fiction for anyone who has yet to experience his genius. Includes these never-before-published stories: "Confido" "FUBAR" "Shout About It from the Housetops" "Ed Luby's Key Club" "A Song for Selma" "Hall of Mirrors" "The Nice Little People" "Hello, Red" "Little Drops of Water" "The Petrified Ants" "The Honor of a Newsboy" "Look at the Birdie" "King and Queen of the Universe" "The Good Explainer" "[Look at the Birdie] brings us the late writer's young voice as he skewers—sometimes gently, always lethally—post World War II America."—The Boston Globe

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: *Bagombo Snuff Box* Kurt Vonnegut, 1999 For this unusual collection of vintage Vonnegut, the author has selected 24 of his favorite stories never published before in book form and has written a new Preface for the occasion.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: Hall of Mirrors (Short Story) Kurt Vonnegut, 2009-10-20 Look at the Birdie is a collection of fourteen previously unpublished short stories from one of the most original writers in all of American fiction. In this series of perfectly rendered vignettes, written just as he was starting to find his comic voice, Kurt Vonnegut paints a warm, wise, and often funny portrait of life in post-World War II America—a world where squabbling couples, high school geniuses, misfit office workers, and small-town lotharios struggle to adapt to changing technology, moral ambiguity, and unprecedented affluence. In this disquieting tale, the investigation into a string of mysterious disappearances turns surreal for two detectives, when they pay a visit to the home of a celebrated hypnotist. But who will turn the tables on whom when the final spell is cast? Hall of Mirrors and the thirteen other never-before-published pieces that comprise Look at the Birdie serve as an unexpected gift for devoted readers who thought that Kurt Vonnegut's unique voice had been stilled forever—and provide a terrific introduction to his short fiction for anyone who has yet to experience his genius.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: While Mortals Sleep Kurt Vonnegut, 2011-01 An anthology of 16 previously unpublished works includes selections from the iconic writer's early literary career and is complemented by more than one dozen of his original works of art and a foreword by the National Book Critics Circle Award-finalist author of What Is the What.

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short fiction of kurt vonnegut: While Mortals Sleep Kurt Vonnegut, 2011-10-06 While Mortals Sleep is a smart, clear-eyed collection of stories from one of the most original writers in American

fiction. Set in trailers, bars and factories, Vonnegut conjures up a world where men and machines, art and artifice, fame and fortune become curiously twisted and characters pit their dreams and fears against a cruel and comically indifferent world. Written early in his career, and never published before, these tightly plotted stories are infused with Vonnegut's distinctive blend of observation, imagination and scabrous humour. This collection features an introduction by Dave Eggers.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: 2BR02B Kurt Vonnegut, 2011-08-01 Regarded by critics and fans alike as one of the most accomplished and witty social commentators of the twentieth century, all of Kurt Vonnegut's unique strengths as a writer shine in the short fiction piece 2BR02B. The title is a clever take on Hamlet's famous rhetorical question, To be or not to be? In this brave new world, it's the phone number one calls to schedule an assisted suicide or termination -- both of which are commonplace occurrences in a time when the population is strictly controlled by government mandate.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: The Big Trip Up Yonder by Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Science Fiction, Literary Kurt Vonnegut, 2011-06 A short story by Kurt Vonnegut originally written in 1953. It was first published in Galaxy Science Fiction magazine in January 1954. The title is the protagonist's euphemism for dying.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: 2 B R 0 2 B Kurt Vonnegut, 2021-01-01 2 B R 0 2 B' is a short story by renowned science fiction writer Kurt Vonnegut. The title is pronounced as 2 B R naught 2 B, referencing to the famous phrase to be, or not to be from William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. In this story, the title refers to the telephone number one dials to schedule an assisted suicide with the Federal Bureau of Termination. The setting is a society in which aging has been cured, individuals have indefinite lifespans, and population control is used to limit the population of the United States to forty million. This is maintained through a combination of infanticide and government-assisted suicide. In short, in order for someone to be born, someone must first volunteer to die. As a result, births are few and far between, and deaths occur primarily by accident.

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short fiction of kurt vonnegut: <u>Hello, Red (Stories)</u> Kurt Vonnegut, 2009-08-25 Look at the Birdie is a collection of fourteen previously unpublished short stories from one of the most original writers in all of American fiction. In this series of perfectly rendered vignettes, written just as he was starting to find his comic voice, Kurt Vonnegut paints a warm, wise, and often funny portrait of life

in post—World War II America-a world where squabbling couples, high school geniuses, misfit office workers, and small-town lotharios struggle to adapt to changing technology, moral ambiguity, and unprecedented affluence. "Hello, Red" is a sharply observed homecoming tale in which embittered merchant sailor Red Mayo returns to his small town after nine years at sea. There he confronts the man who ended up marrying the only woman Red ever loved-and stakes a claim on a certain something he left behind. "Hello, Red" and the thirteen other never-before-published pieces that comprise Look at the Birdie serve as an unexpected gift for devoted readers who thought that Kurt Vonnegut's unique voice had been stilled forever-and provide a terrific introduction to his short fiction for anyone who has yet to experience his genius. Other stories from Look at the Birdie available as single-story e-books: On sale September 29, 2009: The Petrified Ants On sale October 20, 2009: Confido FUBAR Shout About It from the Housetops Ed Luby's Key Club A Song for Selma Hall of Mirrors The Nice Little People Little Drops of Water The Honor of a Newsboy Look at the Birdie (Short Story) King and Queen of the Universe The Good Explainer

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: Welcome to the Monkey House: The Special Edition Kurt Vonnegut, 2014-04-08 Since its original publication in 1968, Welcome to the Monkey House has been one of Kurt Vonnegut's most beloved works. This special edition celebrates a true master of the short-story form by including multiple variant drafts of what would eventually be the title story. In a fascinating accompanying essay, "Building the Monkey House: At Kurt Vonnegut's Writing Table," noted Vonnegut scholar Gregory D. Sumner walks readers through Vonnegut's process as the author struggles—false start after false start—to hit upon what would be one of his greatest stories. The result is the rare chance to watch a great writer hone his craft in real time. Includes the following stories: "Where I Live" "Harrison Bergeron" "Who Am I This Time?" "Welcome to the Monkey House" "Long Walk to Forever" "The Foster Portfolio" "Miss Temptation" "All the King's Horses" "Tom Edison's Shaggy Dog" "New Dictionary" "Next Door" "More Stately Mansions" "The Hyannis Port Story" "D.P." "Report on the Barnhouse Effect" "The Euphio Question" "Go Back to Your Precious Wife and Son" "Deer in the Works" "The Lie" "Unready to Wear" "The Kid Nobody Could Handle" "The Manned Missiles" "Epicac" "Adam" "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow"

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: Canary in a Cat House Kurt Vonnegut, 1976 Vonnegut's first collection of short stories, includes 12 wickedly funny stories told as only Vonnegut can.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: 2 B R 0 2 B Kurt Vonnegut, 2018-09-09 2 B R 0 2 B is a science fiction short story by Kurt Vonnegut, originally published in the digest magazine Worlds of If Science Fiction, January 1962, and collected in Vonnegut's Bagombo Snuff Box (1999). The title is pronounced 2 B R naught 2 B, referencing the famous phrase to be, or not to be from William Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. In this story, the title refers to the telephone number one dials to schedule an assisted suicide with the Federal Bureau of Termination. Vonnegut's 1965 novel God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater describes a story by this name, attributing it to his recurring character Kilgore Trout,[1] although the plot summary given is closer in nature to the eponymous tale from his short-story collection Welcome to the Monkey House.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: 2 B R 0 2 B | The Pink Classics Kurt Vonnegut, Sheba Blake, 2017-09-07 2 B R 0 2 B is a science fiction short story by Kurt Vonnegut, originally published in the digest magazine Worlds of If Science Fiction, January 1962, and collected in Vonnegut's Bagombo Snuff Box (1999). The title is pronounced 2 B R naught 2 B, referencing the famous phrase to be, or not to be from William Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. In this story, the title refers to the telephone number one dials to schedule an assisted suicide with the Federal Bureau of Termination. Vonnegut's 1965 novel God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater describes a story by this name, attributing it to his recurring character Kilgore Trout, although the plot summary given is closer in nature to the eponymous tale from his short-story collection Welcome to the Monkey House. The setting is a society in which aging has been cured, individuals have indefinite lifespans, and population control is used to limit the population of the United States to forty million. This is maintained through a combination of infanticide and government-assisted suicide - in short, in order for someone to be born, someone must first volunteer to die. As a result, births are few and far between, and deaths

occur primarily by accident.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: Welcome to the Monkey House Kurt Vonnegut, 1988 Tender stories of love, incisive essays on human greed and misery, and imaginative tales of futuristic happenings reveal Vonnegut's versatility and vision.

short fiction of kurt vonnegut: Long Walk to Forever Kurt Vonnegut, Bryan Patrick Harnetiaux, 1989

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