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# Skin And Other Stories



## Synopsis

How would you get rid of a murder weapon without causing suspicion? Where would you hide a diamond where no one else would think of looking? What if you found out that the tattoo on your back was worth over a million dollars? You will discover that just about anything is possible in a Roald Dahl story, and here are eleven of his very best.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"'This is going to be a bit of a shock to you, I'm afraid,' he said." With those words, Patrick Maloney seals his fate. He has no idea that his mousy wife, Mary, isn't about to take his abandonment of their marriage lightly. He never sees the frozen leg of lamb that hits him squarely in the noggin. And he'll never know how tidily Mary cleans up the evidence--by having the local police dine on the murder weapon! The late Roald Dahl, best known for children's novels such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, also wrote many wonderfully wicked short stories, like the aforementioned "Lamb to the Slaughter," collected in *Skin*, a succinct, darkly humorous anthology for teen readers. Besides the murderous Mary Maloney, a host of other odd characters will leave teens gasping with surprise or chuckling with guilty laughter. In "The Surgeon," Dr. Robert Sandy is given a priceless diamond in exchange for saving a life, promptly loses it, then recovers it again from the strangest of places. "An African Story" chronicles a lonely mountain hermit's bid for revenge that involves a deadly black mamba snake, and "The Sound Machine" describes how a wacky inventor nearly drives himself mad when he creates a contraption that allows him to pick up noises outside the

human range of hearing. There is something for the naughty side of everyone in this Twilight Zone-ish compilation, a recommended read for fans of Dahl's other teen short-story collection, *The Umbrella Man*. (Ages 12 and older) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This volume collects 11 of the master storyteller's short stories, many of which first appeared in *Someone Like You*, and also includes "The Surgeon," originally published in *Playboy* in 1986. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

This collection of stories reveals the diversity of Dahl's thoughts and interests. It is interesting to see if there are any unifying themes in any of the stories. Although I did not find any such theme, each of the stories presents a nice surprise twist at the conclusion, nothing earth shattering and heavy handed, just satisfying.

*The Sound Machine*: A story asserting that all life is played out in a noisy way for all living creatures

*An African Story*: Man and nature acting together to exact revenge.

*Galloping Foxley*: William is a creature of habit, routine is everything. When the routine is suddenly broken, William resorts to reflection of previous times in his life that might explain the presence of a mysterious stranger causing the interruption. Surprise!!

*Lamb to the Slaughter*: Mary had a little (frozen) lamb.

*The Wish*: Dahl enters the mind of a child to relate an adventure familiar to many children where fantasy becomes reality.

*The Surgeon*: There is really more than one surgeon involved here, but the title still works.

*Dip In the Pool*: There are different meanings to the phrase "Your number is up."

*The Champion of the World*: A story of poachers and keepers and pheasants.

*Beware of the Dog*: A WWII story with the unusual question; exactly which side am I on?

*My Lady Love, My Dove*: Some people pay a lot of attention to social class, but in this story a seemingly intractable class conscious person seems to be very flexible with crossing self-imposed class boundaries.

I read these shorts years ago, and they are still just as enjoyable to read through again now. Great collection. I love Roald Dahl. For those of you out there who only know him for his children's books, I recommend you give his adult oriented works a shot. His ideas are equally creative, and his character as idiosyncratic as ever. However, now Dahl is unleashed, and no longer restricted by any sort of decency standards appropriate for younger readers. It's a fun, and crazy ride.

I bought this as a gift for a friend and read it first! I was surprised at how much I enjoyed it and also

how much I could see his children's stories underlying in the themes of the adult stories. A must read for any Roald Dahl fan!!!!

Roald Dahl is not just for children. I always delighted in his wicked wit in *Lamb to the Slaughter* and the ambiguity in *Beware of Dog*, so to find a collection of his short stories was a godsend. His stories rate up there with Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner and Charlotte Perkins Gilman for disturbing twists.

Remember his TV series 'Tales of the unexpected'? Just wonderful!

Another winner from the pen of one of the worlds greats!

A comical and unexpected story at every turn. Ronald Dahl does it again. Witty and fun to read, wish there were more stories!

A fantastic intro to the adult world of Dahl. His dark humour, power of suggestion and devilishly interesting stories make you wanting more.

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