



## Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?: Selected Early Stories

By Joyce Carol Oates

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Joyce Carol Oates's selected early stories. Oates has chosen twenty-seven of her early stories, many of them *O. Henry Award* and/or *Best American Short Story* selections, for this volume, the only collection of her early stories available.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In her 17th collection of short fiction, Oates ( *With Shuddering Fall* ) retrieves stories from her first six, as well as two stories not previously published in book form. And while the volume includes some of her best-known work ("Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"), the chance to savor "The Molesters," never reprinted before though eventually included in her novel, *Expensive People* , and "How I Contemplated the World from the Detroit House of Correction and Began My Life Over Again" is momentous. For in stories such as these, the writer shows early signs of the sinister ingenuity and command of psychological nuance later fulfilled in other ways in other books. The new collection of work, dating from the 1960s and 1970s, reveals a consistency of theme. Oates demonstrates, for instance, that she was, as she is, cool-tempered yet seductive in her canny portrayals of innocence on the verge of defilement--and afterwards. The collection also displays the author's imaginative restlessness, and an apparent search for an anti-self in fiction concerned with molested children and suburban victims of sleaze and angst. Longtime fans will be pleased to be reminded of how Oates began, and first-time readers will find a good place to start.

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### About the Author

Joyce Carol Oates is one of our most important and well known writers—and one of America's foremost writers of the short story form. She is also a regular contributor of reviews and criticism for the New York Times Book Review, The New York Review of Books, and elsewhere. She also reads and lectures widely throughout the US, at universities and bookstores.

### Users Review

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