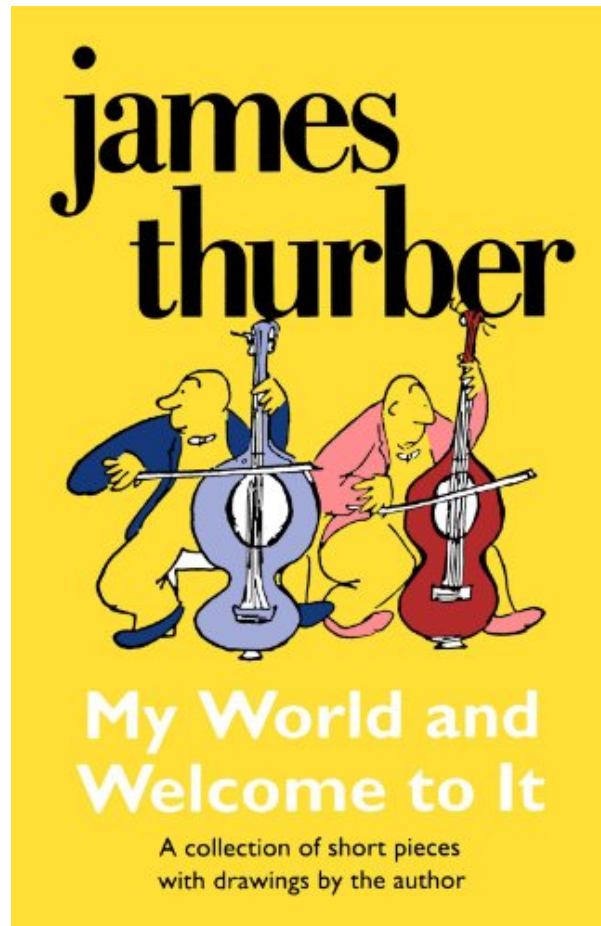


MY WORLD-AND WELCOME TO IT (HARVEST BOOK) BY JAMES THURBER



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My World and Welcome to It

A collection of short pieces
with drawings by the author

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"I preferred Thurber as a humorist to Mark Twain."
(E.B. White)

"These are brilliant sketches."
(The New York Times Book Review)

"Thurber is incomparable." (Christian Science Monitor)

From the Publisher
7 1-hour cassettes

About the Author

James Grover Thurber (December 8, 1894 - November 2, 1961) was an American author, cartoonist and celebrated wit. Thurber was best known for his contributions (both cartoons and short stories) to *The New Yorker* magazine. James Grover Thurber was born December 8, 1894 in Columbus, Ohio and died on November 2, 1961 (aged 66) in New York, New York.

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The world of Thurber is splendidly sampled in these thirty stories, sketches, and articles that range from the wildest comedy to the serious business of murder. Animal courtship, maids, Macbeth, baseball, sailing, marriage-all fall within Thurber's scope. Drawings by the Author.

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Most helpful customer reviews

22 of 25 people found the following review helpful.
A Minor Collection by a Great American Humorist

By Gary F. Taylor

James Thurber is justly famous as one of 20th Century America's most astute humourists--but MY WORLD AND WELCOME TO IT does not really display the author to his best advantage. Even so, it does contain a few gems that make purchase of this title necessary to Thurber fans.

The showpiece of this collection is the famous but somewhat over-rated "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," but MY WORLD also includes a number of seldom anthologized pieces that show Thurber's wit at a high-water mark, including "The Whip-Poor-Will," "A Friend to Alexander," and "The MacBeth Murder Mystery." It also includes several examples of Thurber's acid perspective on the battle of the sexes, such as "Death in the Zoo," and several memorable examples of his ability to wring laughter from the perfidies of language, such as "What Do You Mean, It 'Was' Brillling?" and "Here Lies Miss Gorby."

But the bulk of MY WORLD consists of much less focused material that Thurber casually produced for THE NEW YORKER--pieces which are mildly humorous examinations of everything from French guidebooks to 19th century copies of the English magazine PUNCH. Thurber's clever prose lends such pieces considerable charm, but they are decidedly minor works when compared with the side-splitting classics found in other collections. Thurber fans, of course, will be delighted by most of it, but newcomers would likely be happier with such collections as A THURBER CARNIVAL.

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Constant Companion

By Sarah Robinson

This collection of short essays and stories is marvellous. I have carried it with me on every trip I have taken since I first read it. I have my grandfather's copy, which has been on a longtime loan (say, ten years...) I am fondest of the essays, which range from clever little tirades against the Telephone Company and the Motor Vehicle Bureau to accounts and commentaries on Thurber's travels in France and Italy. It is really a wonderful wonderful book, very funny and acute. Please read it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Okay, not great

By ManyManias

First, a gripe. I purchased this volume used from TinSignsAmerica. The condition was listed as "Good", but the first two pages are torn out, and roughly at that. Granted, these pages were apparently title pages, so the readability of the book was unaffected... but I'd hardly call such a volume "Good" condition.

Now, on to the book itself.

I purchased this book mainly for "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty", and mainly to see if there was any more to the story than I had read in school. (As it turns out, there isn't.) I read it cover to cover, more out of hope and a sense of obligation than anything else, and I have to say I came away a bit disappointed.

I'm far from being a Thurber enthusiast, but I definitely expected more from someone who received so many plaudits as a humorist. Part I, being an assortment of his articles and fiction, I found especially heavy going, as the humor rarely rose above smirkworthy. Being a product of Thurber's time, there were tidbits I may have found slightly more amusing if I were more familiar with the popular culture of the time in which these pieces were written.

Having said that, I found refreshing the frequent references to smoking cigarettes... a breath of fresh air in this era of clean air fascism run amok.

I found Part II much more enjoyable, as it contained several pieces Thurber wrote regarding his European travels in the days just prior to WWII breaking out. I found those pieces enjoyable not just as travelogues,

but also as contemporary history, with just a touch of wry amusement that comes from knowing how events ultimately played out.

If you're already a fan of Thurber's writing, you may already have this collection or something like it. (See other reviews for more authoritative recommendations.) If you've never read Thurber, I can't honestly say I would recommend you start. Some of his works are available online, so the first taste is free...

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