

INDIES UNITED PUBLISHING HOUSE  
PRESENTS

# Infinite Indies



2021

A MULTI-AUTHOR ANTHOLOGY

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Dedicated to every person who ever took a chance on an  
unknown author.

Thank you.

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# Foreword



Jayne Southern

*‘Stories are neither fact nor fiction. They’re greater than that – they are allegories, philosophical treatises and fables that hold the potential to entertain, reveal and instruct.’ – Imani Perry, Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University and author.*

Storytelling can be traced back to ancient legends, mythology, folklore, and fables found in communities all over the world. Stories existed before humans could write; Irish, African, Jewish, American Indian and many other cultures are testimony to the importance of these oral traditions. These stories were passed down, generation by generation, verbatim in most cases, to secure the history of the people; they also enhanced developmental skills, memory, bonding, communications skills – and imagination.

The advent of writing added another dimension: the preservation of cultural and tribal history, legends, mythic tales, folk stories, fairy tales and family stories. Imagination combined with writing opened a new dimension for reminiscences and new stories. Printing opened vast dimensions for sharing stories and legends.

Short stories as we know them today emerged in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Margaret Atwood, James Baldwin, Ernest Hemingway, Alice Munro, Tobias Wolff, Shirley Jackson, Jhumpa Lahiri, Mary Shelley, Katherine Mansfield, Neil Gaiman, Louisa May Alcott are just a few of those who have perfected the short story.

What is the importance of stories? Every story helps us explain experience, to make cognitive and emotional links that help shape how we view the world and life. Think of the importance of fairy tales to children, how they prepare them for what they will encounter as they grow. Stories cover everything from wicked stepmothers to science, memories, humour, horror, science fiction, thrills, spills and salvation. It’s

worth taking the time to read *The Uses of Enchantment* by Bruno Bettelheim.

Writers of short stories draw from all genres, all literary techniques. The vital ingredients of character, setting, conflict, plot and theme are united with pitch, pace, passion (not necessarily rumpy-dumpy!), poetry and precision, much in the way poetry is constructed. Only certain words will work, in a certain order. Short stories are not ‘dashed off’.

Writers hone their skills with short stories to offer a brief engagement with an event, a character, a mood, a memory, an imagining, as emotive and affecting as any novel. Short stories offer readers the opportunity to explore new writers, to tempt readers to invest in their novels. The frisson of a good story can entertain, inform, alarm, cheer, move to empathy or tears, or simply provide a pleasurable twenty-minute read. Gifts not to dismiss.

Indies United Publishing House has an enviable camaraderie of writers in a splendid range of genres. The stories in this edition are but a tasty morsel to enjoy!

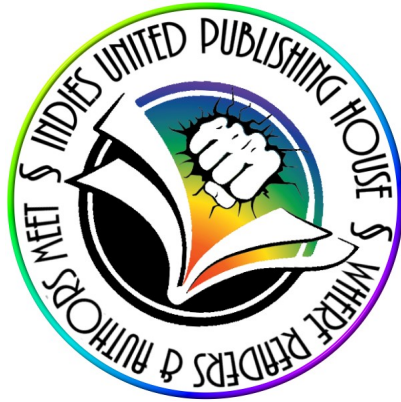
You can consider escaping to the moon, or remember the exquisite pain of first love and celebrating our differences. Restoring your faith in your fellow man by reading of the extraordinary kindness of strangers will remind you of unexpected generosity you have experienced. Maybe the mind numbing take on transformation and power of the mind – sometimes negative – will give you pause for thought. Reflections on childhood time with parents and grandparents will bring back memories too good not to savour and carry with you.

I have been fortunate to work with many authors, in a broad spectrum of fiction and non-fiction and never fail to wonder at how they work such magic with the same twenty-six letters and a handful of punctuation marks. The depth and breadth of a writer’s work, the originality, the research, the commitment to putting their imaginings to paper, the courage in placing manuscripts with agents, editors, proofreaders, publishers, reviewers and you, the reader, is nothing short of astonishing.

Enjoy the latest anthology from Indies United Publishing House.

‘The writer does not and should not have the last word. That belongs to the reader.’ – Tobias Wolf

Thank you for taking the time to read this collection from the authors of Indies United Publishing House. We hope you enjoyed it and would like to encourage you to take a moment to review this collection on your favorite reading platform.



## A little about Indies United

Here at Indies United, we are a co-op of like-minded authors working together to showcase our books and highlight our diversity as writers. We openly encourage and support both new and established authors in their pursuit of finding their audience while bringing to you books worth reading. Our goal is to give authors a home to call their own, while bringing fresh, innovative, and exciting books to readers all over the world.

If you are an author, please check us out at [www.indiesunited.net](http://www.indiesunited.net)

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