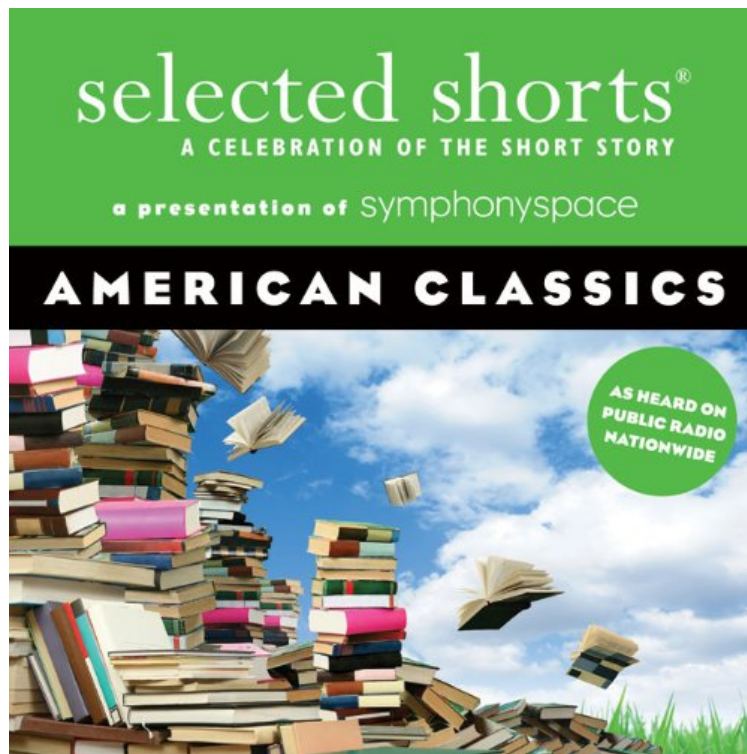


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## Selected Shorts: American Classics (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story)

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#1847452 in Books Symphony Space 2010-04-01 Formats: Abridged, Audiobook, CD Original  
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**From Brand: Symphony Space : Selected Shorts: American Classics (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Selected Shorts: American Classics (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story):

2 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Sexist! By Marty Nemko  
The stories disproportionately portray women more positively than the men. In all eight of the stories, the men are portrayed as much more irrelevant, stupid, impotent, and/or evil than the women: In the Amy Tan story, the protagonist, a girl, is a brilliant chess player, inspired by her sagacious mother. The girl wins every game against the boys, who are portrayed as sexist pigs or impotent, as is his brother, who is relegated to washing dishes so the girl can prepare for a chess grandmaster tournament. In the Eudora Welty story, the narrator, a woman, is a most insightful observer of the family dynamic and the only other positive character in the story is her mother. The two men in the story, her uncle and grandfather are the only two characters not to be given names, which accentuates their lack of agency. And the uncle's major role is to display what Welty describes as the world's worst temper by in the middle of the night, setting off an entire pack of firecrackers in his niece's bedroom, a woman who the doctor said was the person most sensitive to sound ever. Poe's Black Cat is about a man who savagely kills his loving cat. In the Joyce Carol Oates story, a sadistic young man relentlessly

torments a young woman. That's all that happens in that story. Donald Barthelme's story, *Game*, consists of two mindless men waiting for instructions, unquestioningly, for when to hit the (nuclear bomb) button. In Alice Walker's *Everyday Use*, there are no men, only three women, of whom two are very positive characters. In John Cheever's Christmas story, the male doorman is a protagonist who lies and manipulates people, almost all women, into giving him gifts. In *The Anarchist Convention*, the main characters are men fighting over nothing. Men vary as do women and it is illegitimate to assert that today's women are so oppressed that they need such biased selection of short stories or of anything else. And of course, if the selection of short stories were to have been as biased against women, there would be a loudly asserted and seriously acted-upon cry of bias. Well, in this softest of media outlets, I humbly submit such a cry on behalf of unfairly treated boys and men. It's not coincidental that the suicide rate of boys under 10 is the same as girls. From 11-15, twice as high for boys. 16-20, 4x as high, 20-25 5+x as high and at 65+ even higher. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun and quick read of very diverse short stories By S.J. I enjoyed this book, especially Amy Tan's story because the family in this short story was also in her book *The Joy Luck Club* but in much greater detail. Obviously if you don't like short stories this book (which is just a compilation of short stories) isn't for you. The different stories are all pretty different which I thought made the book easier to read because if I didn't like one story, there's a possibility that I might like the next. There is also a really nice mix of authors from different backgrounds with different writing styles and subject matters in each story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. J. Stiller reading J. Sayles! By noochinator Five stars for Jerry Stiller's brilliant reading of John Sayles' story "At the Anarchists' Convention."

A compilation of classic tales by great American writers performed by terrific actors, with a lineup ranging from Eudora Welty's hilarious story of an independent young woman striking out on her own, "Why I Live at the P.O." read to wacky perfection by Stockard Channing to Joyce Carol Oates sly, creepy tale of a teenage girl's seduction by a dangerous drifter, "Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?," read poignantly by Christine Baranski to Edgar Allan Poe's terrifyingly delicious "The Black Cat," read by Ren Auberjonois. Other featured stories include Alice Walker's "Everyday Use" read by Carmen de Lavallade, John Cheever's "Christmas is a Sad Season for the Poor" performed by Malachy McCourt, Amy Tan's "Rules of the Game" read by Freda Foh Shen and Jerry Stiller reading John Sayles' laugh-out-loud classic "At the Anarchists' Convention" by John Sayles.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Recorded live at Peter Norton Symphony Space in New York City and on tour around the U.S., this collection features works from a wide swath of genres and masters of the genre including Eudora Welty and Edgar Allan Poe and such inspired writer-reader pairings as John Cheever and Malachy McCourt. David Strathairn's tone and pacing produce a standout rendition of Donald Barthelme's *Game*; Christine Baranski delivers a chilling performance of the Joyce Carol Oates classic *Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?* and Jerry Stiller's hammy rendition of John Sayles's *At the Anarchists' Convention* brings down the house and is worth the price of the collection alone. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Jerry Stiller's hammy rendition of John Sayles' 'At the Anarchists' Convention' brings down the house and is worth the price of the collection alone." Publishers Weekly