



A Brief History of Fables: From Aesop to Flash Fiction

By Rourke, Lee.

Hesperus. 1 Paperback(s), 2011. soft. Book Condition: New. This unique survey traces the long history of a form currently enjoying a popular resurgence, both online and in the printed works of talented young authors. As we emerge from modernism and its aftermath, notes Lee Rourke, fable the briefest of narratives given the most expansive of significations have gained in popularity. Here he considers the many permutations of the form, from Aesop's tortoise and hare, through Plato's socio-political works and ribald medieval tales, to Kafka's anthropomorphism. "Aesop, the Greek 'anti-philosopher' who was flung off a cliff by humor-challenged Delphians, is a kind of literary Socrates: all subsequent literature can be read as Aesopian footnotes or variations. So argues Rourke energetically, as he whisks us past the fabulists Phaedrus, Odo of Cheriton, Marie de France, Romi (the deeply amusing Sufist) and Fontaine, then through Kafka, Joyce and Borges, and up to cultish modern 'microfiction' and 'flash fiction'." Guardian (London) 178.



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