



Keepsakes and Other Stories

Jon Hassler

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From Publishers Weekly These seven gentle tales set in Minnesota and North Dakota and all written during the 1970s treat fans of novelist Hassler (*A Green Journey*; *Jemmy*) to the earliest fruits of his talent. Some are folksy portraits of small-town characters, while others are drier and more plot driven. Both the title story and "Resident Priest" feature crusty, 74-year-old Father Fogarty, a pastor who's leaving his parish after 23 years. In "Chief Larson," a seven-year-old Indian boy, known (rather improbably) only as "chief" on the reservation, rebels in a small but telling way against his white adoptive family. "Good News in Culver Bend" tracks two city reporters who travel to a small town and discover "the heart of Christmas." "Chase" and "Christopher, Moony, and the Birds" show how frustrated residents of small towns seek solace. The former, so brief it's nearly a prose poem, hints at Hassler's own adolescent discovery of his talent for fiction; the latter follows a lonely 50-year-old college professor as he goes on a consolatory walk with a student's awkward wife and child, watching "birds on family outings, hopping and halting on the grass." The cleverest story, "Yesterday's Garbage," follows a "garbologist" who finds the truth about a murder in a trash bin, and is then led to commit one himself. The publisher plans to issue Hassler's later short fiction in three more volumes, starting in the year 2000. (Sept.)

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From reader reviews:

Mary Williams:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled Keepsakes and Other Stories can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

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