



## The Best Australian Stories 2012

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*These stories are breath-takers, the ones which render nothing more important than discovering what happens next.* —Sonya Hartnett

*The Best Australian Stories 2012* is the country's premier annual collection of short fiction. This year sees Sonya Hartnett select thirty-two remarkable stories that roam widely in subject and style, but share "a delicate complexity and a vibrant cleverness."

A travelling scout for a modern-day freak show meets a girl with a strange and wonderful gift. A winning lottery ticket tests the bonds of three mismatched siblings. A beast of burden offers an alternative account of Australian settlement.

There is dark humour, stealthy and unsettling, and moments of terror, whimsy, romance and surprise. What unites them is a steadfast commitment to the storyteller's art – the art of making the reader want to turn the page.

‘Almost all the stories curated by Hartnett were new to me and reading them was a treat ... As with the poems, this outstanding collection confirms the robust health of the Australian short story.’ —the *Australian*

‘You'd be hard to please if you found nothing in this collection to make you want to linger and relish what you'd discovered.’ —*Sydney Morning Herald*

Sonya Hartnett is the internationally acclaimed author of several novels. In 2003, her adult novel, *Of a Boy*, won the *Age Book of the Year* and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award.

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