



Catch As Catch Can: The Collected Stories and Other Writings

Joseph Heller, Matthew J. Bruccoli

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A collection of short stories and other miscellaneous writings by Joseph Heller, one of America's most influential and idiosyncratic writers.

Years before the publication of *Catch-22*—which was called “a monumental artifact of contemporary literature” by *The New York Times*, “an apocalyptic masterpiece” by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and “one of the most bitterly funny works in the language” by *The New Republic*—Joseph Heller began sharpening his skills as a writer, searching for the voice that would best express his own peculiarly wry view of the world.

In *Catch As Catch Can*, editors Matthew J. Bruccoli and Park Buckner have for the first time collected the short stories Heller published prior to that first novel, along with all the other short pieces of fiction and nonfiction that were published during his lifetime. Also included are five previously unpublished short stories, most reflecting the influence on Heller of urban naturalist writers such as Irwin Shaw and Nelson Algren.

The result is an important and significant addition to our understanding and appreciation of Joseph Heller, showing his evolution as a writer and artist. For those unfamiliar with his work, it will serve as an excellent introduction; for everyone else, *Catch As Catch Can* is a chance to explore a new aspect of Heller's remarkable career.

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