

The Lost Heifetz and Other Stories by Michael Tabor

5 stars

Twelve insightful, satirical and totally enthralling short stories

Michael Tabor grew up in the UK and worked in the US as a professor of Applied Physics at Columbia University and of Applied Mathematics at the University of Arizona. After a career of teaching and research, he has given up the academic life to write fiction. I believe that this is his first published work and it is an absolute gem!

The twelve short stories couldn't be more diverse and are set both in the UK and the US.

The first is about Colin, a young musician who, whilst looking for a Bach recording in HMV, meets an enigmatic elderly gentleman whose knowledge of Bach and the classical music scene in Vienna between the Wars makes a huge impression on him. On talking to his good friend, Peter, he learns about a legendary violinist, Isaac Berg, who was killed during the war. Colin is convinced that the elderly gentleman could be, or would have known Isaac Berg, and sets out to track him down. What he discovers is life-changing.

Another story tells of the life of a theatre from the viewpoints of the actors, crew, directors, audience and even the stage and the lavatories. Very different but no less engaging.

A third professes to tell the true story of Oscar Wilde's, Dorian Gray.

The other nine are equally diverse, taking the reader from Nice in the South of France to small-town America and to the world of politics in academia, a world which Tabor knows well. There are no 'duds'; each offering says something about life and the human condition. Some have humour, others tragedy and pathos, a very *cornucopia* of delights.

The writing is unpretentious and the stories page-turning. I would defy anyone to read one and put the book down for later; I couldn't wait to see what the next story and the next etc. would reveal.

Buy it – read it- tell your friends!!

Pashtpaws

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.