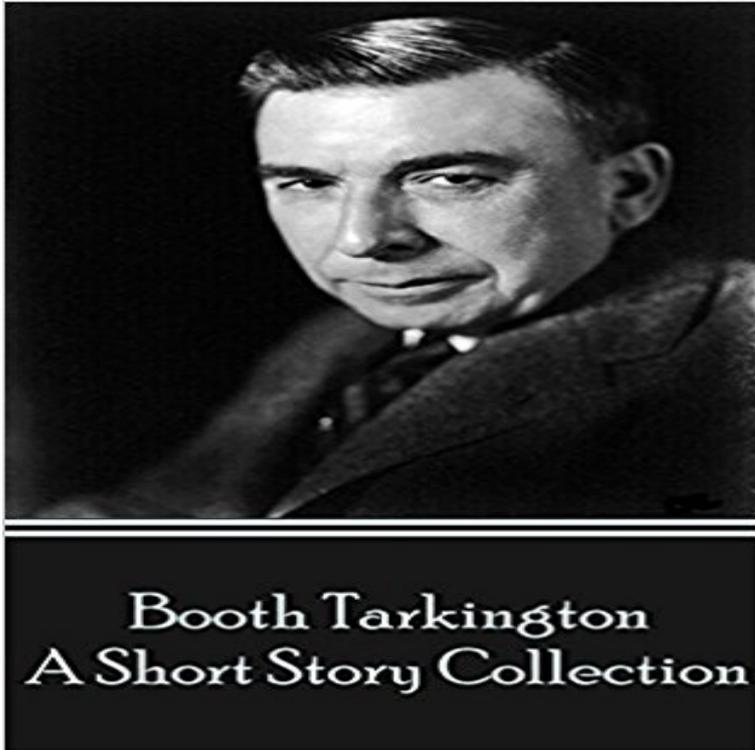


The Short Stories



Booth Tarkington was born on July 29, 1869 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is one of only three novelists to win the Pulitzer Prize more than once. When you look through the quality of his work it is easy to understand why. The *Magnificent Ambersons*, *Alice Adams*, *Penrod*, *Penrod And Sam* all classics. The *Penrod* novels depict a typical upper-middle class American boy of 1910 vintage, revealing a fine, bookish sense of American humor. At one time, his *Penrod* series was as well known and regarded as Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*. Much of Tarkington's work consists of satirical and closely observed studies of the American class system and its foibles. Coming as he did from a patrician Midwestern family that lost much of its wealth after the Panic of 1873 the foundations for that outlook are clear. Today, he is best known for his novel *The Magnificent Ambersons* which contrasted the decline of the old money Amberson dynasty with the rise of new money industrial tycoons in the years between the American Civil War and World War I. In this volume you have an opportunity to read some of his very fine short stories.

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