

NEIGHBOURS

of Joshua Creek

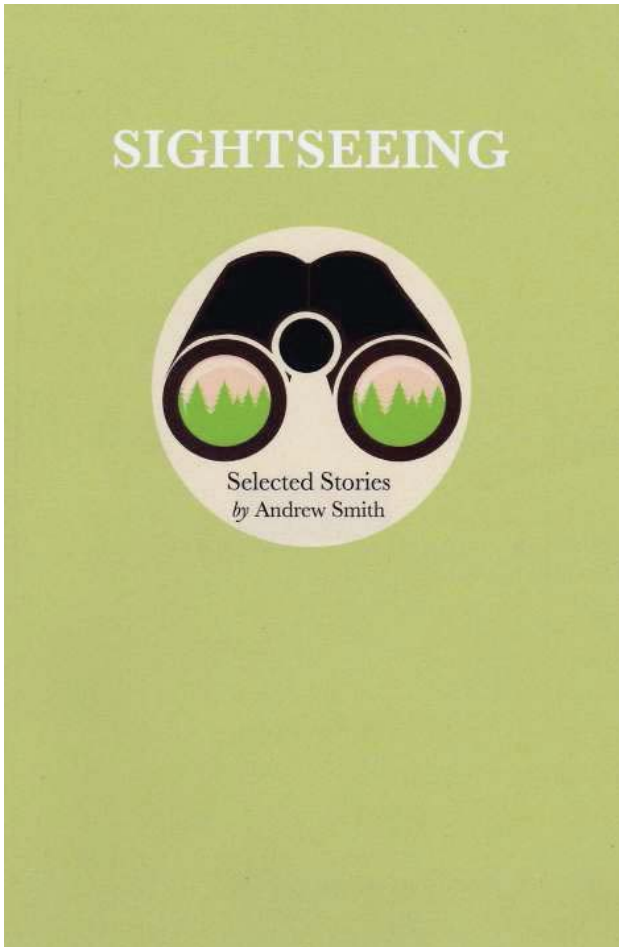


MAKING LIFE-CHANGING CONNECTIONS
THE CHILDREN'S AID FOUNDATION OF HALTON

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
SIGHTSEEING
WINTER & YOUR PET

What Your Neighbours Are Reading

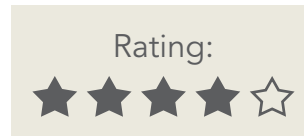
Cover art courtesy of Andrew Smith



Book: *Sightseeing, Selected Stories*

By: Andrew Smith

Reviewed by Angelo Sgabellone, BA/AOCA



The enduring quality of Andrew Smith’s latest offering *Sightseeing* draws from the finest short-story writers in modern times such as Katherine Mansfield, E.M. Forster, William Saroyan, and Elio Vittorini among others. In Smith’s case, his insight transcends the magic of human essence with an erudite skill that fuses both the artificial with the verisimilitude of natural formulation. Smith’s, choice of metaphor and phrasing is uniquely singular, its brevity leaves you with a prolonged state of empathy for his lovable protagonists and their settings.

Overall Andrew Smith’s latest book *Sightseeing*, offers a fascinating series of nine kaleidoscopic snapshots of flawed creatures and events, that navigate bravely to overcome circumstantial humanity. In *Lost*, Smith examines the speculative condition of a cautious police officer’s (Bruce) childhood with primal doubts that implicate a friend (Glen) who may have skirted mysterious disappearances. The haunting rural uncertainty leads Bruce to inconclusive questions of unresolved judicial conditions. In the end, he substantiates reality and settles his doubts between duty and loyalty. While living in Toronto, Smith owned property on the Niagara Escarpment and fell in love with its natural setting/people. This sketch mitigates the author’s love for that environment.

The title story, *Sightseeing*, presents us with Margo’s introspection as idealized critical levels of intrusion. Her impervious attitude to change and tragedy seemingly turns to masks of gender identity and bonding with Irene as she confronts a translucent fascination with socio-cultural conditioning. Smith, explores the delicate feminine polarities of both Margo and Irene as they settle into a sudden tragedy which affects their self-preservation at a Niagara Falls Cafe.

Overall, Smith presents us with wonderful sketches of diametrical suppositions. Many characters are transitive beings lost in challenging environments of lucid space for our imagination to resolve. In closing, Smith’s *Sightseeing* presents us with a fascinating rear-view mirror of captivating snapshots that gloss over provocative self-reflections and human conditions.

Award-winning writer/artist Andrew Smith was born and educated in Liverpool, England; he studied at Wolverhampton College of Art and the University of Toronto. He has published two non-fiction books among others, his award-winning work has appeared in numerous international publications: his most recent novel, *The Speech*, was published by Urbane Publications, U.K. He works and lives in London and Toronto. *Sightseeing* can be found on Amazon.

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