

[Download free pdf] The Miniature Wife: and Other Stories by Gonzales, Manuel 1st (first) Edition (1/10/2013)

## **The Miniature Wife: and Other Stories by Gonzales, Manuel 1st (first) Edition (1/10/2013)**

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**aa : The Miniature Wife: and Other Stories by Gonzales, Manuel 1st (first) Edition (1/10/2013)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Miniature Wife: and Other Stories by Gonzales, Manuel 1st (first) Edition (1/10/2013):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some good stories, some bad storiesBy CalvinThere are some good stories in here and probably make the book worth the purchase.Over half of them are horrible and a complete waste of time you will never get back. Some are super short, perhaps they could be made into a story but certainly aren't worth a read now.A few are entertaining. It is a shame they are stuck between other pointless boring wastes of paper.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very engaging, very quirky stories of the "fantastical"By Niles508On the whole, this is an interesting collection of strange and bizarre stories. Most are written in first-person, and this makes it easy for the reader to get absorbed right into each quirky situation. I would describe these stories as "fantastical". There is always an attitude of bemused humor in the telling of the tales. The "impossible" is treated as being true and accepted in the telling of the tale -- a matter-of-fact attitude expressed by the first-person narrator. "Things fall apart" is the quote by W.B. Yeats printed on the page before the collection of stories begins. This is the thread that ties all these stories together.I won't review each story, as this has been done well by others on . But, my favorite story is the title story: "The Miniature Wife". A man accidentally shrinks his wife to doll-size, and can't reverse the process. So, he

tries to accommodate her by building her a doll house to live in. Things do not go well. Their relationship changes drastically. And, so it goes. Very creepy, and also funny. "Cash to a Killing" is my next favorite, then "Pilot, Copilot, Writer". On my personal grading scale, all 18 of these stories merit a grade of between A+ and C, which (in my experience of reading short story collections) is excellent. Not all stories are winners, but none of them is bad. Quirky variations on tales of wolfmen, zombies, unicorns, murderers, hijackers, robots, other-worlds, end of the world, human oddities. Sprinkled in amongst the stories are several "Meritorious Life" encyclopedia-like entries. They are not short stories, but seem more like writing exercises. These are the weakest entries in this collection, with one exception: "William Corbin: A Meritorious Life". The encyclopedia entry gives a scholarly explanation of the origin of clowns. It reminded me greatly of a museum I visited in Culver City, CA -- the Museum of Jurassic Technology. Just as this museum presents the fantastical as "truth" (and you must do your own research to determine the real truth), it is difficult to separate fact from fiction when it is presented in a scholarly format. That's what this particular entry does -- presents the wildly fantastic as truth. And, it's presented so seriously that you almost might believe it. (I don't believe that the other Meritorious Life entries are as successful.) The writing is very good, the stories are engaging, odd, creepy, funny, etc. My main criticism of many of these stories is the author's chosen "ending". As some other reviewers have mentioned, they didn't think the stories were finished. The author is obviously very talented, so I also do not understand why he seemed to not supply adequate "endings" to some (not all) of these stories.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Balanced, mature and imaginative

By Nelson Antonio Denis

In his 1989 essay "Stalking the Billion-Footed Beast," Tom Wolfe warned of those who wrote "on the assumption that the true enemies of the novel were plot, character, setting, and theme." Sure enough, as Wolfe foretold, "New types of novels came in waves, each trying to establish an avant-garde position out beyond realism. There were Absurdist novels, Magical Realist novels, and novels of 'Radical Disjunction' in which plausible events and plausible characters were combined in fantastic or outlandish ways, often resulting in dreadful catastrophes." Some of those catastrophes nearly sank several imprints, who now rely on vampires and spanking to save them.

THE MINIATURE WIFE is not one of those catastrophes. It is sharply observed, densely imagined, and a near-perfect evocation of our fractured human condition circa 2013. The magic realism is there, with traces of Borges, Kafka and Gabriel Garcia Marquez woven through the stories. But there are other, and subtler, layers. Ibsen's Doll House lives inside the title story. Another piece, the minimalist "Cash to a Killing," would fit comfortably beside the Hemingway Nick Adams tales. The dirty realism of Raymond Carver and granular precision of early Chekhov suffuse the entire collection. It is a strange, haunting book - a menagerie of lost souls, a Madame Tussauds of the human spirit, an objective correlative for a mad planet.

Manuel Gonzales has done his homework. He is a balanced, mature writer whose imagination matches the surreality of our times. He arrives in full throat in this debut work.