

a good man is hard to find

a good man is hard to find is a phrase that resonates deeply in literature, relationships, and society at large. Whether referencing Flannery O'Connor's famous short story, exploring modern dating challenges, or examining cultural perceptions of morality and integrity, this topic remains highly relevant. In this article, we will delve into the origins and meaning of "a good man is hard to find," analyze its literary significance, discuss what defines a "good man" today, and explore how this concept influences relationships and societal expectations. Readers seeking insight into human nature, the complexities of character, and the pursuit of genuine connections will find comprehensive information here. This article is designed to answer common questions, provide practical considerations, and offer a clear overview of why a good man is hard to find in both historical and contemporary contexts.

- Understanding the Phrase: Origins and Meaning
- Literary Analysis: Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"
- Defining a Good Man in Modern Society
- Challenges in Finding Good Men Today
- Characteristics of a Good Man
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Understanding the Phrase: Origins and Meaning

The phrase "a good man is hard to find" has evolved from a simple observation to a cultural touchstone. Its earliest usage can be traced back to various literary works and popular sayings, but it gained widespread recognition through Flannery O'Connor's short story published in 1953. The phrase encapsulates the universal challenge of finding individuals who embody honesty, integrity, and moral strength. In many societies, the idea of a "good man" is tied to traditional values such as reliability, respect, and ethical behavior. The enduring popularity of this phrase reflects ongoing concerns about character and trustworthiness in both personal and professional relationships. Today, it is often used to describe the difficulties encountered in dating, friendships, and even workplace dynamics.

Literary Analysis: Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"

Plot Overview and Themes

Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" is a cornerstone of American literature. The story follows a family's ill-fated road trip, culminating in a confrontation with a criminal known as The Misfit. O'Connor explores themes of grace, redemption, and moral ambiguity, using the grandmother's repeated assertion that "a good man is hard to find" as a central motif. The narrative challenges readers to consider the true meaning of goodness and the complexity of human nature.

Symbolism and Moral Questions

O'Connor employs symbolism and irony to highlight the gap between perceived and genuine morality. The grandmother's superficial judgments and selective memory reveal how easily people project their own standards onto others, often missing the deeper truths about character. The phrase "a good man is hard to find" is both a lament and a critique, questioning whether goodness is rare or simply misunderstood.

Defining a Good Man in Modern Society

Changing Cultural Standards

Modern society's definition of a good man has shifted considerably over time. While traditional traits like honesty, loyalty, and responsibility remain important, contemporary values also emphasize emotional intelligence, empathy, and active support for equality. The evolution of gender roles has led to broader expectations for what constitutes "goodness," moving beyond rigid stereotypes to include vulnerability and self-awareness.

Common Misconceptions

There are several misconceptions about what makes a good man. Social media and pop culture often promote superficial qualities such as wealth, physical appearance, or status. However, lasting relationships and healthy communities are built on deeper attributes. Understanding the difference between appearance and substance is essential for recognizing and appreciating truly good men in everyday life.

Challenges in Finding Good Men Today

Societal Pressures and Modern Dating

One reason a good man is hard to find is the increasing complexity of social dynamics. Online dating, shifting cultural norms, and changing expectations have made it more difficult to identify genuine character traits. Many individuals experience frustration when searching for partners who align with their values.

Common Obstacles

- Lack of communication skills
- Unrealistic expectations
- Superficial values in modern culture
- Fear of vulnerability
- Work-life balance challenges

Recognizing and overcoming these obstacles is crucial for fostering meaningful connections and finding men who exemplify integrity and kindness.

Characteristics of a Good Man

Core Values and Traits

A good man is defined by more than external success. Core values such as honesty, respect, compassion, and accountability form the foundation of true goodness. These attributes are demonstrated in everyday actions, not just in grand gestures.

Traits to Look For

1. Honesty and Transparency
2. Consistent Reliability
3. Empathy and Compassion
4. Commitment to Personal Growth
5. Respect for Others
6. Sense of Humor and Positivity

7. Strong Work Ethic

8. Ability to Communicate Clearly

Each of these traits contributes to the overall impression of a good man, and they are essential for building trust and lasting relationships.

Impact on Relationships and Society

Relationship Dynamics

The search for a good man influences romantic relationships and family dynamics. When individuals prioritize genuine values over superficial traits, they are more likely to build healthy, supportive partnerships. Mutual respect and shared values serve as the foundation for long-term happiness.

Societal Expectations

Society places significant pressure on men to embody certain ideals. The phrase “a good man is hard to find” often reflects frustration with unmet expectations, but it also serves as a call to action for men to strive for authenticity and moral strength. Communities benefit when men are encouraged to express vulnerability, support others, and act with integrity.

Positive Influence

- Encourages self-reflection and growth
- Promotes healthier relationships
- Supports community well-being
- Strengthens social trust and cooperation

The pursuit of goodness is not just personal—it has a ripple effect that benefits everyone.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does “a good man is hard to find” mean in modern contexts?

A: It refers to the challenge of finding individuals who possess genuine moral integrity and reliable character, especially in a world where superficial qualities are often prioritized.

Q: What are the main themes of Flannery O'Connor's “A Good Man Is Hard to Find”?

A: The story explores themes of grace, redemption, moral ambiguity, and the complexity of human nature, questioning what truly defines goodness.

Q: What traits should someone look for in a good man?

A: Key traits include honesty, empathy, reliability, respect, emotional intelligence, and a commitment to personal growth.

Q: Why do people say a good man is hard to find?

A: People often express this sentiment due to frustrations with dating, shifting social values, and the perceived rarity of men who embody traditional virtues.

Q: How has the definition of a good man changed over time?

A: The definition has expanded from traditional roles to include emotional intelligence, vulnerability, and active support for gender equality.

Q: What obstacles make it difficult to find a good man today?

A: Common obstacles include poor communication, unrealistic expectations, superficial values, and societal pressures that discourage authenticity.

Q: Can a good man be found in every culture?

A: Yes, goodness is valued across cultures, but definitions and expectations may vary based on cultural norms and traditions.

Q: How does the search for a good man impact

relationships?

A: It influences how individuals choose partners, prioritize values, and build trust, often shaping the quality and longevity of relationships.

Q: Is the phrase “a good man is hard to find” only about romantic relationships?

A: No, it applies to friendships, family, professional relationships, and broader social interactions where integrity and reliability are valued.

Q: What can communities do to encourage more good men?

A: Communities can promote positive role models, encourage emotional openness, support ethical behavior, and create environments where integrity is celebrated.

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A Good Man Is Hard to Find: Exploring Flannery O'Connor's Enduring Legacy

Finding a "good man" is a challenge in life, but in Flannery O'Connor's chillingly brilliant short story, the search takes on a far more sinister and profound meaning. This post delves deep into O'Connor's seminal work, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," examining its enduring themes, complex characters, and the lasting impact it's had on literature and popular culture. We'll explore the story's moral ambiguity, its use of grotesque imagery, and the ultimate questions it poses about faith, morality, and the nature of good and evil. Prepare to be challenged, provoked, and ultimately, captivated by the unsettling power of O'Connor's masterpiece.

The Misfit: A Study in Moral Ambiguity

The story's iconic antagonist, The Misfit, is far from a simple villain. He's a complex character

shrouded in mystery, his past shrouded in violence and his present driven by a nihilistic worldview. O'Connor masterfully avoids simplistic labeling. He's a murderer, yes, but his philosophical musings on good and evil, grace and responsibility, challenge the reader to confront uncomfortable truths about humanity's capacity for both. His interactions with the grandmother, particularly, highlight the story's central conflict: the clash between self-deception and the harsh realities of life and death.

The Grandmother's Self-Deception: A Catalyst for Tragedy

The grandmother, a central character, represents hypocrisy and self-delusion. Her carefully constructed image of Southern gentility masks a selfish and manipulative nature. She prioritizes her own comfort and desires, even at the expense of her family's safety. Her obsession with preserving her outdated social status ironically contributes to the tragedy that unfolds. The Misfit's actions, while horrific, are a direct consequence of the grandmother's self-deception and inability to truly connect with others on a meaningful level.

Exploring the Grotesque: O'Connor's Signature Style

O'Connor's writing is characterized by its use of grotesque imagery and dark humor. The violent climax of the story, shocking and disturbing, isn't gratuitous. It serves to highlight the stark realities of human depravity and the unexpected ways grace might manifest itself, even in the face of extreme violence. The juxtaposition of the seemingly mundane details of family road trips with the sudden eruption of brutal violence underscores the precarious nature of life and the ever-present possibility of chaos.

Grace Under Pressure: Finding Redemption in the Face of Death

Despite the story's grim conclusion, O'Connor leaves the reader with a glimmer of hope. The grandmother's final moments, marked by a sudden recognition of the Misfit's humanity and a potential for grace, offer a complex and unsettling resolution. It's a moment of profound spiritual awakening, albeit one that occurs only in the face of imminent death. This ambiguous ending forces the reader to confront their own beliefs about redemption and the possibility of finding grace in unexpected places.

The Enduring Legacy: A Timeless Exploration of Humanity

"A Good Man Is Hard to Find" continues to resonate with readers decades after its publication because it explores timeless themes of morality, faith, and the human condition. Its characters, flawed and complex, are unforgettable. The story's unflinching portrayal of violence and its exploration of the darker aspects of human nature make it a powerful and thought-provoking work that challenges readers to confront their own beliefs and prejudices. It remains a staple in literature classes and continues to inspire critical analysis and interpretation. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to provoke uncomfortable yet essential questions about the nature of good and evil, and the search for meaning in a world often characterized by chaos and suffering.

Conclusion

Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" is not a comfortable read. It's a disturbing, powerful, and unforgettable exploration of the human condition, showcasing the author's masterful command of language, character development, and thematic exploration. It challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about themselves and the world around them, leaving a lasting impact long after the final page is turned. The story's enduring relevance lies in its ability to continually provoke discussion and interpretation, cementing its place as a literary masterpiece.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the central theme of "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"? The central theme revolves around the complexities of good and evil, faith, grace, and the consequences of self-deception. It explores how our perceptions of ourselves and others can lead to tragic outcomes.
2. Who is the most important character in the story, and why? While all characters contribute to the narrative, The Misfit is arguably the most important. His actions drive the plot, but more significantly, his philosophical musings and interactions with the grandmother reveal the story's central themes.
3. How does O'Connor use the grotesque in the story? O'Connor uses grotesque imagery and dark humor to highlight the stark realities of human depravity and the unexpected ways grace can manifest itself. The juxtaposition of the ordinary and the horrific emphasizes the fragility of life.
4. What is the significance of the story's ending? The ending is intentionally ambiguous, leaving the reader to grapple with the possibility of grace and redemption even in the face of extreme violence. The grandmother's final moments suggest a potential for spiritual awakening.
5. Why is "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" still relevant today? The story's exploration of timeless themes such as morality, faith, and the human condition makes it perpetually relevant. Its unflinching portrayal of violence and complex characters continues to resonate with readers, prompting ongoing discussion and interpretation.

a good man is hard to find: A Good Man is Hard to Find Flannery O'Connor, 2015-11-03 A masterful collection of short fiction from one of America's greats. The centerpiece of the collection, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," tells the story of a family road trip that takes a dark turn when they cross paths with an escaped murderer. Including other great stories like "A Stroke of Good Fortune" and "A Circle in the Fire," O'Connor's gift for mesmerizing prose makes this a must-read. Penguin Random House Canada is proud to bring you classic works of literature in e-book form, with the highest quality production values. Find more today and rediscover books you never knew you loved.

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its way also across continents and into earlier and future times and indeed the Earth, to reveal connections between the most disparate lives and systems of feeling and power. At its breathing heart, it plots the fuguelike and fieldlike densities of late-twentieth-century life. McElroy rests a global vision on two people, apartment-house neighbors who never quite meet. Except, that is, in the population of others whose histories cross theirs--believers and skeptics; lovers, friends, and hermits; children, parents, grandparents, avatars, and, apparently, angels. For *Women and Men* shows how the families through which we pass let one person's experience belong to that of many, so that we throw light on each other as if these kinships were refracted lives so real as to be reincarnate. A mirror of manners, the book is also a meditation on the languages--rich, ludicrous, exact, and also American--in which we try to grasp the world we're in. Along the kindred axes of separation and intimacy *Women and Men* extends the great line of twentieth-century innovative fiction.

a good man is hard to find: The Complete Stories Flannery O'Connor, 2019-05-07 Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction, these thirty-one powerful and disturbing stories cement Flannery O'Connor as one of the preeminent fiction writers of the twentieth century. This collection includes twelve stories that did not appear in the two story collections O'Connor put together in her lifetime. This collection includes the following short stories: The Geranium The Barber Wildcat The Crop The Turkey The Train The Peeler The Heart of the Park A Stroke of Good Fortune Enoch and the Gorilla A Good Man Is Hard to Find A Late Encounter with the Enemy The Life You Save May Be Your Own The River A Circle in the Fire The Displaced Person A Temple of the Holy Ghost The Artificial Nigger Good Country People You Can't Be Any Poorer Than Dead Greeleaf A View of the Woods The Enduring Chill The Comforts of Home Everything That Rises Must Converge The Partridge Festival The Lame Shall Enter First Why Do the Heathen Rage Revelation Parker's Back Judgement Day Penguin Random House Canada is proud to bring you classic works of literature in e-book form, with the highest quality production values. Find more today and rediscover books you never knew you loved.

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a good man is hard to find: Collected Works Flannery O'Connor, 1988 Contents: *Wise Blood* - *A Good Man is Hard to Find* - *The Violent Bear It Away* - *Everything That Rises Must Converge* - *Stories and Occasional Prose* - *Letters*.

a good man is hard to find: The Presence of Grace and Other Book Reviews by Flannery O'Connor Flannery O'Connor, 2008-03-01 During the 1950s and early 1960s Flannery O'Connor wrote more than a hundred book reviews for two Catholic diocesan newspapers in Georgia. This full collection of these reviews nearly doubles the number that have appeared in print elsewhere and represents a significant body of primary materials from the O'Connor canon. We find in the reviews the same personality so vividly apparent in her fiction and her lectures--the unique voice of the artist that is one clear sign of genius. Her spare precision, her humor, her extraordinary ability to permit readers to see deeply into complex and obscure truths--all are present in these reviews and letters.

a good man is hard to find: The Habit of Being Flannery O'Connor, 1988-08-01 Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Special Award I have come to think that the true likeness of Flannery O'Connor will be painted by herself, a self-portrait in words, to be found in her letters . . . There she stands, a phoenix risen from her own words: calm, slow, funny, courteous, both modest

and very sure of herself, intense, sharply penetrating, devout but never pietistic, downright, occasionally fierce, and honest in a way that restores honor to the word.—Sally Fitzgerald, from the Introduction

a good man is hard to find: *Three-Ten to Yuma and Other Stories* Elmore Leonard, 2009-10-06 The New York Times-bestselling Grand Master of suspense deftly displays the other side of his genius, with seven classic western tales of destiny and fatal decision . . . and trust as essential to survival as it is hard-earned. Trust was rare and precious in the wide-open towns that sprung up like weeds on America's frontier—with hustlers and hucksters arriving in droves by horse, coach, wagon, and rail, and gunmen working both sides of the law, all too eager to end a man's life with a well-placed bullet. In these classic tales that span more than five decades—including the first story he ever published, “The Trail of the Apache”—Elmore Leonard once again demonstrates the superb talent for language and gripping narrative that have made him one of the most acclaimed and influential writers of our time.

a good man is hard to find: *That Evening Sun* William Faulkner, 2013-03-19 Quentin Compson narrates the story of his family's African-American washerwoman, Nancy, who fears that her husband will murder her because she is pregnant with a white-man's child. The events in the story are witnessed by a young Quentin and his two siblings, Caddy and Jason, who do not fully understand the adult world of race and class conflict that they are privy to. Although primarily known for his novels, William Faulkner wrote in a variety of formats, including plays, poetry, essays, screenplays, and short stories, many of which are highly acclaimed and anthologized. Like his novels, many of Faulkner's short stories are set in fictional Yoknapatawapha County, a setting inspired by Lafayette County, where Faulkner spent most of his life. His first short story collection, *These 13* (1931), includes many of his most frequently anthologized stories, including *A Rose for Emily*, *Red Leaves* and *That Evening Sun*. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

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a good man is hard to find: The Life You Save May Be Your Own Flannery O'Connor, 2015-01-01 When Tom Shiftlet arrives on a farm owned by an old woman and her deaf daughter, he is at first only interested in finding a place to stay in exchange for work. However, when the old woman offers her daughter Lucynell to him in marriage, along with a sum of money, he accepts, though his intentions towards the girl remain unclear. Similar in theme and style to many of other Flannery O'Connor's short stories, "The Life You Save My Be Your Own" was originally published in O'Connor's short story collection, A Good Man Is Hard to Find. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

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a good man is hard to find: Almos' a Man Richard Nathaniel Wright, 2000 Richard Wright [RL 6 IL 10-12] A poor black boy acquires a very disturbing symbol of manhood--a gun. Theme: maturing. 38 pages. Tale Blazers.

a good man is hard to find: The Cruelty Is the Point Adam Serwer, 2021-06-29 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From an award-winning journalist at The Atlantic, these searing essays make a powerful case that “real hope lies not in a sunny nostalgia for American greatness but in seeing this history plain—in all of its brutality, unadorned by euphemism” (The New York Times). NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • “No writer better demonstrates how American dreams are so often sabotaged by American history. Adam Serwer is essential.”—Ta-Nehisi Coates To many, our most shocking political crises appear unprecedented—un-American, even. But they are not, writes The Atlantic’s Adam Serwer in this prescient essay collection, which dissects the most devastating moments in recent memory to reveal deeply entrenched dynamics, patterns as old as the country itself. The January 6 insurrection, anti-immigrant sentiment, and American authoritarianism all have historic roots that explain their continued power with or without President Donald Trump—a fact borne out by what has happened since his departure from the White House. Serwer argues that Trump is not the cause, he is a symptom. Serwer’s phrase “the cruelty is the point” became among the most-used descriptions of Trump’s era, but as this book demonstrates, it resonates across

centuries. The essays here combine revelatory reporting, searing analysis, and a clarity that's bracing. In this new, expanded version of his bestselling debut, Serwer elegantly dissects white supremacy's profound influence on our political system, looking at the persistence of the Lost Cause, the past and present of police unions, the mythology of migration, and the many faces of anti-Semitism. In so doing, he offers abundant proof that our past is present and demonstrates the devastating costs of continuing to pretend it's not. *The Cruelty Is the Point* dares us, the reader, to not look away.

a good man is hard to find: A Little Life Hanya Yanagihara, 2016-01-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning "portrait of the enduring grace of friendship" (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE *A Little Life* follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara's latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

a good man is hard to find: The Love Hypothesis Ali Hazelwood, 2021-09-14 The Instant New York Times Bestseller and TikTok Sensation! As seen on THE VIEW! A BuzzFeed Best Summer Read of 2021 When a fake relationship between scientists meets the irresistible force of attraction, it throws one woman's carefully calculated theories on love into chaos. As a third-year Ph.D. candidate, Olive Smith doesn't believe in lasting romantic relationships--but her best friend does, and that's what got her into this situation. Convinced Anh that Olive is dating and well on her way to a happily ever after was always going to take more than hand-wavy Jedi mind tricks: Scientists require proof. So, like any self-respecting biologist, Olive panics and kisses the first man she sees. That man is none other than Adam Carlsen, a young hotshot professor--and well-known ass. Which is why Olive is positively floored when Stanford's reigning lab tyrant agrees to keep her charade a secret and be her fake boyfriend. But when a big science conference goes haywire, putting Olive's career on the Bunsen burner, Adam surprises her again with his unyielding support and even more unyielding...six-pack abs. Suddenly their little experiment feels dangerously close to combustion. And Olive discovers that the only thing more complicated than a hypothesis on love is putting her own heart under the microscope.

a good man is hard to find: Flannery O'Connor, A Good Man Is Hard to Find - an Analysis Katharina Eder, 2011-05 Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1, University of Vienna, language: English, abstract: The following paper gives an in-depth analysis of Flannery O'Connor's acclaimed short story *A Good Man Is Hard To Find*. A detailed account of O'Connor's life and her status as a fervent Roman Catholic in the predominantly Protestant South during the period of World War II and the Cold War sheds light on her literary motivations and her brilliant use of the grotesque. The historical and religious context complements the second part of the paper, which consists of a thorough textual analysis of *A Good Man Is Hard To Find*. Special emphasis is put on the exploration of character relationships, important themes and cultural signifiers, which again links up with the first part of the paper.

a good man is hard to find: No Country for Old Men Cormac McCarthy, 2007-11-29 From the bestselling author of *The Passenger* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Road* comes a profoundly disturbing and gorgeously rendered novel (*The Washington Post*) that returns to the Texas-Mexico border, setting of the famed *Border Trilogy*. The time is our own, when rustlers have given way to drug-runners and small towns have become free-fire zones. One day, a good old boy named Llewellyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by a bodyguard of dead men. A load of

heroin and two million dollars in cash are still in the back. When Moss takes the money, he sets off a chain reaction of catastrophic violence that not even the law—in the person of aging, disillusioned Sheriff Bell—can contain. As Moss tries to evade his pursuers—in particular a mysterious mastermind who flips coins for human lives—McCarthy simultaneously strips down the American crime novel and broadens its concerns to encompass themes as ancient as the Bible and as bloodily contemporary as this morning's headlines. No Country for Old Men is a triumph. Look for Cormac McCarthy's latest bestselling novels, *The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*.

a good man is hard to find: *The House in the Cerulean Sea* TJ Klune, 2020-03-17 A NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, and WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER! A 2021 Alex Award winner! The 2021 RUSA Reading List: Fantasy Winner! An Indie Next Pick! One of Publishers Weekly's Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2020 One of Book Riot's "20 Must-Read Feel-Good Fantasies" Lambda Literary Award-winning author TJ Klune's bestselling, breakout contemporary fantasy that's 1984 meets *The Umbrella Academy* with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. (Gail Carriger) Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours. 1984 meets *The Umbrella Academy* with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. —Gail Carriger, New York Times bestselling author of *Soulless* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

a good man is hard to find: *Metamorphosis* Franz Kafka, 2021-03-19 Franz Kafka, the author has very nicely narrated the story of Gregor Samsa who wakes up one day to discover that he has metamorphosed into a bug. The book concerns itself with the themes of alienation and existentialism. The author has written many important stories, including "The Judgement", and much of his novels "Amerika", "The Castle", "The Hunger Artist". Many of his stories were published during his lifetime but many were not. Over the course of the 1920s and 30s Kafka's works were published and translated instantly becoming landmarks of twentieth-century literature. Ironically, the story ends on an optimistic note, as the family puts itself back together. The style of the book epitomizes Kafka's writing. Kafka very interestingly, used to present an impossible situation, such as a man's transformation into an insect, and develop the story from there with perfect realism and intense attention to detail. *Metamorphosis* is an autobiographical piece of writing, and we find that parts of the story reflect Kafka's own life.

a good man is hard to find: *Shatter Me* Tahereh Mafi, 2011-11-15 The gripping first installment in New York Times bestselling author Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me* series. One touch is all it takes. One touch, and Juliette Ferrars can leave a fully grown man gasping for air. One touch, and she can kill. No one knows why Juliette has such incredible power. It feels like a curse, a burden that one person alone could never bear. But The Reestablishment sees it as a gift, sees her as an opportunity. An opportunity for a deadly weapon. Juliette has never fought for herself before. But when she's reunited with the one person who ever cared about her, she finds a strength she never knew she had. And don't miss *Defy Me*, the shocking fifth book in the *Shatter Me* series!

a good man is hard to find: *Enslavement and Emancipation* Harold Bloom, Blake Hobby, Sterling Professor of Humanities Harold Bloom, 2010 Provides an examination of the use of enslavement and emancipation in classic literary works.

a good man is hard to find: *A Prayer Journal* Flannery O'Connor, 2013-11-12 I would like to write a beautiful prayer, writes the young Flannery O'Connor in this deeply spiritual journal, recently discovered among her papers in Georgia. There is a whole sensible world around me that I should be able to turn to Your praise. Written between 1946 and 1947 while O'Connor was a student far from home at the University of Iowa, *A Prayer Journal* is a rare portal into the interior life of the great writer. Not only does it map O'Connor's singular relationship with the divine, but it shows how

entwined her literary desire was with her yearning for God. I must write down that I am to be an artist. Not in the sense of aesthetic frippery but in the sense of aesthetic craftsmanship; otherwise I will feel my loneliness continually . . . I do not want to be lonely all my life but people only make us lonelier by reminding us of God. Dear God please help me to be an artist, please let it lead to You. O'Connor could not be more plain about her literary ambition: Please help me dear God to be a good writer and to get something else accepted, she writes. Yet she struggles with any trace of self-regard: Don't let me ever think, dear God, that I was anything but the instrument for Your story. As W. A. Sessions, who knew O'Connor, writes in his introduction, it was no coincidence that she began writing the stories that would become her first novel, *Wise Blood*, during the years when she wrote these singularly imaginative Christian meditations. Including a facsimile of the entire journal in O'Connor's own hand, *A Prayer Journal* is the record of a brilliant young woman's coming-of-age, a cry from the heart for love, grace, and art.

a good man is hard to find: *The War Against Boys* Christina Hoff Sommers, 2013-08-20 An updated and revised edition of the controversial classic—now more relevant than ever—argues that boys are the ones languishing socially and academically, resulting in staggering social and economic costs. Girls and women were once second-class citizens in the nation's schools. Americans responded with concerted efforts to give girls and women the attention and assistance that was long overdue. Now, after two major waves of feminism and decades of policy reform, women have made massive strides in education. Today they outperform men in nearly every measure of social, academic, and vocational well-being. Christina Hoff Sommers contends that it's time to take a hard look at present-day realities and recognize that boys need help. Called "provocative and controversial...impassioned and articulate" (*The Christian Science Monitor*), this edition of *The War Against Boys* offers a new preface and six radically revised chapters, plus updates on the current status of boys throughout the book. Sommers argues that the problem of male underachievement is persistent and worsening. Among the new topics Sommers tackles: how the war against boys is harming our economic future, and how boy-averse trends such as the decline of recess and zero-tolerance disciplinary policies have turned our schools into hostile environments for boys. As our schools become more feelings-centered, risk-averse, competition-free, and sedentary, they move further and further from the characteristic needs of boys. She offers realistic, achievable solutions to these problems that include boy-friendly pedagogy, character and vocational education, and the choice of single-sex classrooms. *The War Against Boys* is an incisive, rigorous, and heartfelt argument in favor of recognizing and confronting a new reality: boys are languishing in education and the price of continued neglect is economically and socially prohibitive.

a good man is hard to find: *Red Rising* Pierce Brown, 2014-01-28 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Pierce Brown's relentlessly entertaining debut channels the excitement of *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. "Red Rising ascends above a crowded dystopian field."—USA Today ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR—Entertainment Weekly, BuzzFeed, Shelf Awareness "I live for the dream that my children will be born free," she says. "That they will be what they like. That they will own the land their father gave them." "I live for you," I say sadly. Eo kisses my cheek. "Then you must live for more." Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. Yet he toils willingly, trusting that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better world for his children. But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. Soon he discovers that humanity reached the surface generations ago. Vast cities and lush wilds spread across the planet. Darrow—and Reds like him—are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class. Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity's overlords struggle for power. He will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization against the best and most brutal of Society's ruling class. There, he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies . . . even if it means he has to become one of them to do so.

Praise for Red Rising “[A] spectacular adventure . . . one heart-pounding ride . . . Pierce Brown’s dizzyingly good debut novel evokes The Hunger Games, Lord of the Flies, and Ender’s Game. . . . [Red Rising] has everything it needs to become meteoric.”—Entertainment Weekly “Ender, Katniss, and now Darrow.”—Scott Sigler “Red Rising is a sophisticated vision. . . . Brown will find a devoted audience.”—Richmond Times-Dispatch Don’t miss any of Pierce Brown’s Red Rising Saga: RED RISING • GOLDEN SON • MORNING STAR • IRON GOLD • DARK AGE • LIGHT BRINGER

a good man is hard to find: A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini, 2008-09-18 A riveting and powerful story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship and an indestructible love

a good man is hard to find: All But My Life Gerda Weissmann Klein, 1995-03-31 All But My Life is the unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz (present-day Bielsko) in Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops—including the man who was to become her husband—in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of all but her life. By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.

a good man is hard to find: The Silent Patient Alex Michaelides, 2019-02-05 ****THE INSTANT #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**** An unforgettable—and Hollywood-bound—new thriller... A mix of Hitchcockian suspense, Agatha Christie plotting, and Greek tragedy. —Entertainment Weekly The Silent Patient is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman’s act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive. Alicia Berenson’s life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London’s most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. Alicia’s refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London. Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him....

a good man is hard to find: End of History and the Last Man Francis Fukuyama, 2006-03-01 Ever since its first publication in 1992, the New York Times bestselling The End of History and the Last Man has provoked controversy and debate. Profoundly realistic and important...supremely timely and cogent...the first book to fully fathom the depth and range of the changes now sweeping through the world. —The Washington Post Book World Francis Fukuyama's prescient analysis of religious fundamentalism, politics, scientific progress, ethical codes, and war is as essential for a world fighting fundamentalist terrorists as it was for the end of the Cold War. Now updated with a new afterword, The End of History and the Last Man is a modern classic.

a good man is hard to find: Sonny Liston Was a Friend of Mine Thom Jones, 2009-11-29 The author's world encompasses dilapidated fight arenas, state mental hospitals & chaotic emergency rooms. The inhabitants are his brilliantly etched characters, who battle desperately against fate in a

game of life they cannot win but dare not lose. As we approach the end of the century & the millennium, no one writes better or more vividly than Jones does about the personal, private apocalypses we all face in our darkest moments. In one story, a Vietnam vet, a Recon Marine, swims alone across the English Channel, the Straits of Gibraltar, & the Bosphorus to maintain the edge that kept him alive in wartime - & that is all he now has left. In another, a brilliant doctor verges on a breakdown. In the title story, a young amateur fighter stoically endures repetitive beatings because he knows the world of boxing shields & protects him from the even crueler world outside of the ring. A number of these stories have appeared in different forms in the New Yorker, Playboy, & Esquire.

a good man is hard to find: Small Things Like These Claire Keegan, 2021-11-30 Shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize A hypnotic and electrifying Irish tale that transcends country, transcends time. —Lily King, New York Times bestselling author of *Writers & Lovers* *Small Things Like These* is award-winning author Claire Keegan's landmark new novel, a tale of one man's courage and a remarkable portrait of love and family It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church. An international bestseller, *Small Things Like These* is a deeply affecting story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy from one of our most critically lauded and iconic writers.

a good man is hard to find: I Who Have Never Known Men Jacqueline Harpman, 1997-04-08 A work of fantasy, *I Who Have Never Known Men* is the haunting and unforgettable account of a near future on a barren earth where women are kept in underground cages guarded by uniformed groups of men. It is narrated by the youngest of the women, the only one with no memory of what the world was like before the cages, who must teach herself, without books or sexual contact, the essential human emotions of longing, loving, learning, companionship, and dying. Part thriller, part mystery, *I Who Have Never Known Men* shows us the power of one person without memories to reinvent herself piece by piece, emotion by emotion, in the process teaching us much about what it means to be human.

a good man is hard to find: Mystery and Manners Flannery O'Connor, 1969 At her death in 1964, O'Connor left behind a body of unpublished essays and lectures as well as a number of critical articles that had appeared in scattered publications during her too-short lifetime. The keen writings comprising *Mystery and Manners*, selected and edited by O'Connor's lifelong friends Sally and Robert Fitzgerald, are characterized by the directness and simplicity of the author's style, a fine-tuned wit, understated perspicacity, and profound faith. The book opens with *The King of the Birds*, her famous account of raising peacocks at her home in Milledgeville, Georgia. Also included are: three essays on regional writing, including *The Fiction Writer and His Country* and *Some Aspects of the Grotesque in Southern Fiction*; two pieces on teaching literature, including *Total Effect and the 8th Grade*; and four articles concerning the writer and religion, including *The Catholic Novel in the Protestant South*. Essays such as *The Nature and Aim of Fiction* and *Writing Short Stories* are widely seen as gems. This bold and brilliant essay-collection is a must for all readers, writers, and students of contemporary American literature.

a good man is hard to find: It Ends with Us Colleen Hoover, 2020-07-28 In this “brave and heartbreaking novel that digs its claws into you and doesn’t let go, long after you’ve finished it” (Anna Todd, New York Times bestselling author) from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *All Your Perfects*, a workaholic with a too-good-to-be-true romance can’t stop thinking about her first love. Lily hasn’t always had it easy, but that’s never stopped her from working hard for the life she wants. She’s come a long way from the small town where she grew up—she graduated from college, moved to Boston, and started her own business. And when she feels a spark with a gorgeous neurosurgeon named Ryle Kincaid, everything in Lily’s life seems too good to be true. Ryle is assertive, stubborn, maybe even a little arrogant. He’s also sensitive, brilliant, and has a total soft spot for Lily. And the way he looks in scrubs certainly doesn’t hurt. Lily can’t get him out of her head. But Ryle’s complete aversion to relationships is disturbing. Even as Lily finds herself becoming

the exception to his “no dating” rule, she can’t help but wonder what made him that way in the first place. As questions about her new relationship overwhelm her, so do thoughts of Atlas Corrigan—her first love and a link to the past she left behind. He was her kindred spirit, her protector. When Atlas suddenly reappears, everything Lily has built with Ryle is threatened. An honest, evocative, and tender novel, *It Ends with Us* is “a glorious and touching read, a forever keeper. The kind of book that gets handed down” (USA TODAY).

a good man is hard to find: As We Are Now May Sarton, 1992-09-01 I am not mad, only old. . . . I am in a concentration camp for the old. So begins May Sarton's short, swift blow of a novel, about the powerlessness of the old and the rage it can bring. *As We Are Now* tells the story of Caroline Spencer, a 76-year-old retired schoolteacher, mentally strong but physically frail, who has been moved by relatives into a home. Subjected to subtle humiliations and petty cruelties, sustained for too short a time by the love of another person, she fights back with all she has, and in a powerful climax wins a terrible victory.

a good man is hard to find: The Mortal Immortal Illustrated Mary Shelley, 2020-07-16 The *Mortal Immortal* is a short story from 1833 written by Mary Shelley. It tells the story of a man named Winzy, who drinks an elixir which makes him immortal. At first, immortality appears to promise him eternal tranquility. However, it soon becomes apparent that he is cursed to endure eternal psychological torture, as everything he loves dies around him.

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