

Stories for Adults

FABLES AND FANTASIES FOR
ADULTS, BY MANOJ DAS,
Orient Paperbacks, New Delhi,
Rs 5.50.

This delightful little volume of ten short stories is a boon to the reader. Mr Manoj Das, winner of the Sahitya Akademi award, has established his reputation as a writer. The stories published here have first appeared in several journals at home and abroad. Some of them have been selected in the anthologies of stories from India.

The short story is an important form of literary craftsmanship. The short story is the longest thing that the modern student reads. Das's characters leap into life and afford enjoyable reading. Pandit pomposity is pricked affording refreshing humour. To summarise the stories is needless. It is enjoyed best when silently read. Stories 4 and 5, 2 and 10 merit special reading. The art of story telling in India reaches back to the Sanskrit classics, Panchatantras, Hitapodesa and Katha Sarit Sagara. The Indian tinge is there in the stories of Das and he is undoubtedly a remarkable success as a Indo-Anglian writer of fiction and short stories of our generation. —P.N.R.