



Buttered Side Down

Edna Ferber

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"And so," the story writers used to say, "they lived happily ever after."

Um-m-m—maybe. After the glamour had worn off, and the glass slippers were worn out, did the Prince never find Cinderella's manner redolent of the kitchen hearth; and was it never necessary that he remind her to be more careful of her finger-nails and grammar? After Puss in Boots had won wealth and a wife for his young master did not that gentleman often fume with chagrin because the neighbors, perhaps, refused to call on the lady of the former poor miller's son?

It is a great risk to take with one's book-children. These stories make no such promises. They stop just short of the phrase of the old story writers, and end truthfully, thus: And so they lived. E. F.

(Summary from the Foreword to "Buttered Side Down".)

Buttered Side Down Details

Date : Published March 1st 2011 by Barnes & Noble (first published 1912)

ISBN : 9781411444867

Author : Edna Ferber

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From Reader Review Buttered Side Down for online ebook

Heather Ordover says

Why Ferber isn't taught in schools is beyond me. This is easily as good as anything Fitzgerald wrote but exposes so many small details about life from a woman's point of view...it's just a treasure.

Jane says

Meh. Forgot about the melodrama of So Big.

Sarah says

Rather sweet, slightly sad stories about shop clerks and travellers in linens - hopeful but realistic, knowing but disappointed. Very 1910s, and very nicely made.

C-shaw says

Free e-book from Amazon!

The author warns readers that these are not necessarily pleasant stories, just ones with truthful endings, and it's true: there are no happy endings, even when it seems things will work out for the best. Nevertheless, all are intriguing, poignant, and very readable. Ferber's writing style is reminiscent of Flannery O'Connor's to me, but with big-city settings and nomenclature rather than Appalachian. This is a great little book.

Some favorite quotations:

"His radiant blondeur was dimmed in some intangible, elusive way."

"Birdie Callahan always said that Minnie was working only to wear out her old clothes."

"Birdie had a face that looked like a huge mistake, but she walked like a panther. . ."

"The average reader likes his heroine well dressed."

"Veteran clerks and policemen cannot disguise their feet."

"The wall-paper was a crime. It represented an army of tan mustard plasters climbing up a chocolate-fudge wall."

"Most of us are where we are because we belong there, and if we didn't, we wouldn't be."

". . . home isn't always the place where you were born and bred. Home is the place where your everyday clothes are, and where somebody, or something needs you."

"Mary Louise's eyes unclosed in a flash. . ."

Nancy says

The stories take place in the early 1900's. Most of them deal with young people going to the big cities, or in one case to the navy, and the struggles they face. They deal with home sickness, and trying to find their way

in the new environment.

Jenn Mancini says

Edna Ferber is great... super entertaining. I can't believe I didn't know about her before and I will be seeking out more of her work. Isn't that the best possible reaction after reading a book? She has a lot of wit which is probably one of my favorite attributes for a writer, and I think it's unfortunate that she is not more well known or taught in school.

Marsha says

An interesting set of stories; they range from somewhat unsettling to truly depressing. I really didn't soak up the first couple, but the rest were enchanting and entralling. And of course, since it was liberivox, there was a reminder every story that it's "in the public domain" :-)

Mama K says

I loved this eccentric collection so much that I then downloaded another collection of stories by Ferber. This collection shows early 20th century women taking their lives in their own hands and refusing to conform to what is expected. I loved the quirky characters and unusual storylines.

Gretchen says

My first foray into Ferber and not my last. Thanks the-toast.net!

Nikki says

Love Edna Ferber!

Shannon Alexander says

Short story writing that draws me in and amazes me with its attention to detail and character. Brilliant voice.

Lucy says

I love Ferber. So funny, so real, so sad. Can't get enough.

Joyce M. Tice says

I really enjoyed these stories - Kindle edition.

Majenta says

More like 4 1/2.

Debbie Zapata says

When I discovered Edna Ferber's work I never thought to try reading the titles in order by publication date. I just picked whichever appealed to me at the moment and read. But when I started this collection, I could see so many hints showing up about Edna's most famous heroine Emma McChesney that I turned to Wiki for more information about my friend Edna. Turns out that Buttered Side Down was only the second book Ferber had

published. No wonder I was seeing ideas and characters that later became much smoother in presentation and personality. This glimpse of her development as a writer was quite interesting to me; and a reminder that in my own half-hearted attempts at scribbling I should not be afraid to take an idea and work it out half a dozen different ways, try it on for size with a few different characters. Edna always inspires me in some way, which is why I like her so much.

Of the twelve stories here, I did have two favorites, which felt more polished, with more of a real message than the others. In *Maymey's From Cuba*, a young woman in Chicago is looking at the window display of a fruit shop which caters to society people who can afford the amazingly luscious out-of-season fruit being offered. Poor Jennie has not had a bite to eat in days, has no money, no job, and no prospects of either. We follow

her in a fruitless quest to find help. The traffic cop she asks for directions tells her which streetcar to take to the nearest soup kitchen, but she does not have the cost of the fare. What happens when she wanders into a large department store and discovers the grocery section? It will break your heart.

In *Where The Car Turns At 18th*, we meet a small town boy who dreams of Something Big, and thinks he has found it the day the Navy Recruiter arrives. But is Eddie's life aboard ship anywhere at all close to what the recruiting posters advertise? And what can he do about it? Will he make a good choice or.....?

I have just one more Edna Ferber title available to me and then when I need an Edna fix I will have to re-read. And I won't mind that a bit.

Peggy says

I enjoyed these short stories, providing a slice of life in the 1920's in various parts of the U.S. (New York, Illinois, Wisconsin). Most of the stories had a touch of bittersweet and humor. I enjoyed all of the stories

except the last one which ended the book on a very sad note.

Megan Davis says

Beautiful writing full of humor and heart. Some stories were more polished than others. I particularly enjoyed, "What She Wore," "The Leading Lady," and "Sun Dried."

Jessi Smith says

Surprisingly refreshing, at times bittersweet, and very clever short stories about shop clerks, hotel staff and wait servers set mainly in the larger American cities in the early 20th century.

I listened to the Librivox audiobook version read by Xe Sands (Madera), which was especially enjoyable. Her silky voice contrasted by the dialects of the characters she portrayed was just terrific!

Karen says

Great stories about relationships that don't all end "happily ever after." Sweet and satisfying.

Dorene says

Wonderful short stories that allow you to see an amazingly modern past....
