



Night-Blooming Cereus: Stories

K. A. Longstreet

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But I see that this intimacy, this talking about my own interior, puts you off. The fact that I've abandoned my cigars for a dark burl pipe and carry the tobacco in a square of white crumpled paper, as he did, instead of a pouch. That I peruse used book shops for old French paperbacks whose unread pages must be slit apart. François Raspail's *Annuaire de la Sant*, for example, lies at this very moment on my bedside table. I feel you're a good enough friend that I can tell you that I've started—very two weeks or so—to visit a prostitute. And I don't shun disease. One must learn to suffer without complaint and abide pain without reluctance. It is thus—from pain—that pearls are born, a product of the oyster's sickness. It was Van Gogh who taught me all this, my friend, and another lesson too: one pays for even the smallest success.

Each of the stories in *Night-Blooming Cereus* is set in a different place and time, yet they all deal with the same underlying theme: how the imagination, in its infinite variety, seeks to transcend external events.

A small Jewish boy's life during the Nazi era grows rich with the sounds and sights of the Arabian Desert when he finds an aged copy of *Travels in Arabia Deserta* in an Amsterdam cellar. An effete and scholarly collector begins to imitate Van Gogh, the painter he worships. An old woman's life is shaped by remembrance as she lies in her hospital bed and recounts a voyage through the Greek Islands during World War II. A reporter remembers his part in a college rape as he interviews a Serbian general being held for war crimes in a Dutch prison. A housekeeper embroiders her deepest yearnings into the laundry of the residents of a rooming house.

K. A. Longstreet's stories are appealing and varied. This collection is unusual in many ways, not the least of which is its breadth. Each story exhibits a dexterous use of detail, often historically based, in providing a landscape for the characters' experiences and musings.

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From reader reviews:

Milton Jones:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want truly feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The actual Night-Blooming Cereus: Stories is kind of publication which is giving the reader capricious experience.

David McClure:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Night-Blooming Cereus: Stories, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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