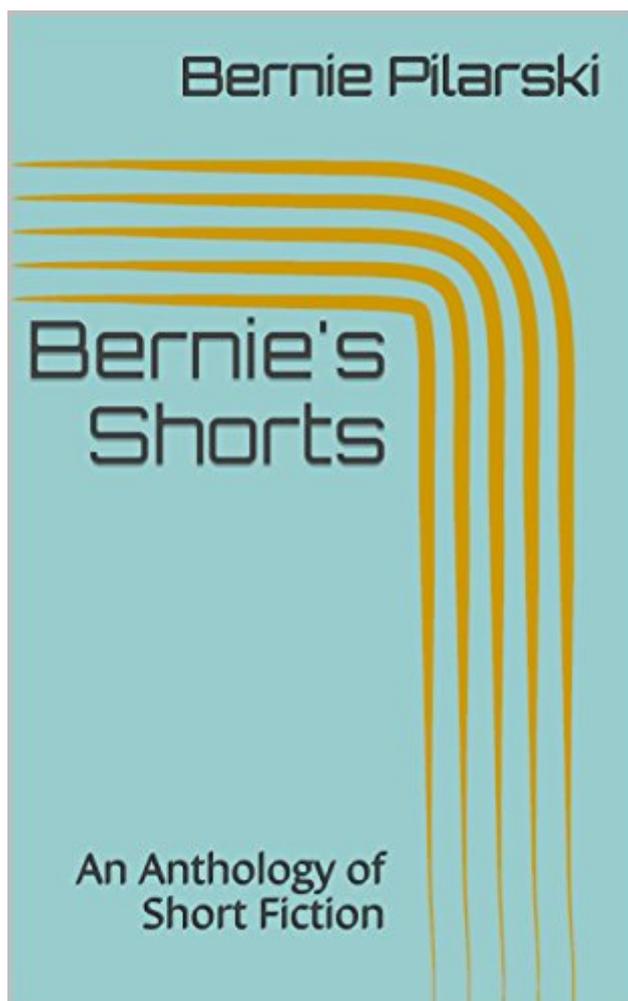


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# Bernie's Shorts: An Anthology Of Short Fiction



## Synopsis

What do you say to an old lover who calls on the phone, or to an estranged father who is dying? What do you do when arousal addles the senses? In these short stories of both the sober and the silly, the quest for love and understanding is examined. With an underlying Catholic spirituality, an immanent God is encountered in the day-to-day events of life, in the sensuousness of being, and even in the guise of an old, wise-cracking Chinese monk who ministers to a people of a town that ceased to exist many years ago. But there is always ambiguity. "The problem of god is one of proportion," says one of the characters. "The effort to prove god exists lacks any useful scale. It is like the explanations of what happens after death. To claim that life ceases at death and there is nothing after is every bit the fancy that is heaven. Each assertion is an act of blind faith based on nothing but speculation. I wonder if in the end, if I could know all that there is to know, would I know god, or would I be god? Would I be able to forgive myself for not having known all along?"

## Book Information

File Size: 739 KB

Print Length: 118 pages

Publication Date: October 14, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B016PB4LQQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,939,596 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #97

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Short Stories &

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