

The return of Mr. Bates to the medium in which he most excels, the short story, is always a matter for congratulation. In *The Watercress Girl* there are 13 tales and sketches, and the most ambitious and successful of them all is "A Great Day for Bonzo." Mr. Bates has the unusual gift of being able to write about children and animals with a bland appearance of detachment. A superficial reading might seem to indicate that the three young things who become involved in the affairs of a sad labourer and his devoted mongrel are examples of highly perfected observation; but there are few writers indeed who can indicate so surely and inevitably the tragic situation of two grown-ups with a happy ending through the eyes and observations of a child.

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