



# The Magic of Shirley Jackson

*Stanley Edgar (ed) Hyman*

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This collection is a generous selection of Jackson's work, consisting of three complete books: *The Bird's Nest*, *Life Among the Savages*, *Raising Demons*, and eleven short stories--including the world-famous *The Lottery*. *The Bird's Nest* This is the story of a woman who embodies in her intense life the mystery of the human personality. [The author] has used her sense of horror, her wit and her truly marvelous ability to characterize, to create Elizabeth. . . so that she becomes one of the unique figures of literature. . . A relatively scarce novel about a young woman with multiple personalities, employing Jackson's gift for the type of horror that doesn't require goblins under the bed. *Life Among the Savages* The author offers a humorous account of her experiences as she, her husband, and their four young children moved from an apartment in the city to a big house in rural Vermont. *Raising Demons* In these new domestic reminiscences, Shirley Jackson carries on her tale of dubious parental equilibrium in the face of four children, assorted dogs and cats, and the uncounted heaps of small intrusive possessions which pile up in corners everywhere. Because of the increasing pressure of possessions, animals, and children, a bigger house is necessary to hold everything. The unending bewilderment of moving gives way to the healthy challenges of small repairs, new roofs, and bookcases, and the heady enthusiasms for horses, Little League, trumpet playing and magic. Shirley Jackson uses her great talent to picture the rich and varied day-to-day living of an unusual but not really so different American family. Plus 11 short stories: *The Daemon Lover* *My Life with R. H. Macy* *Colloquy* *Pillar of Salt* *The Renegade* *Flower Garden* *Elizabeth* *Come Dance with Me in Ireland* *Of Course* *The Tooth* *The Lottery*

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