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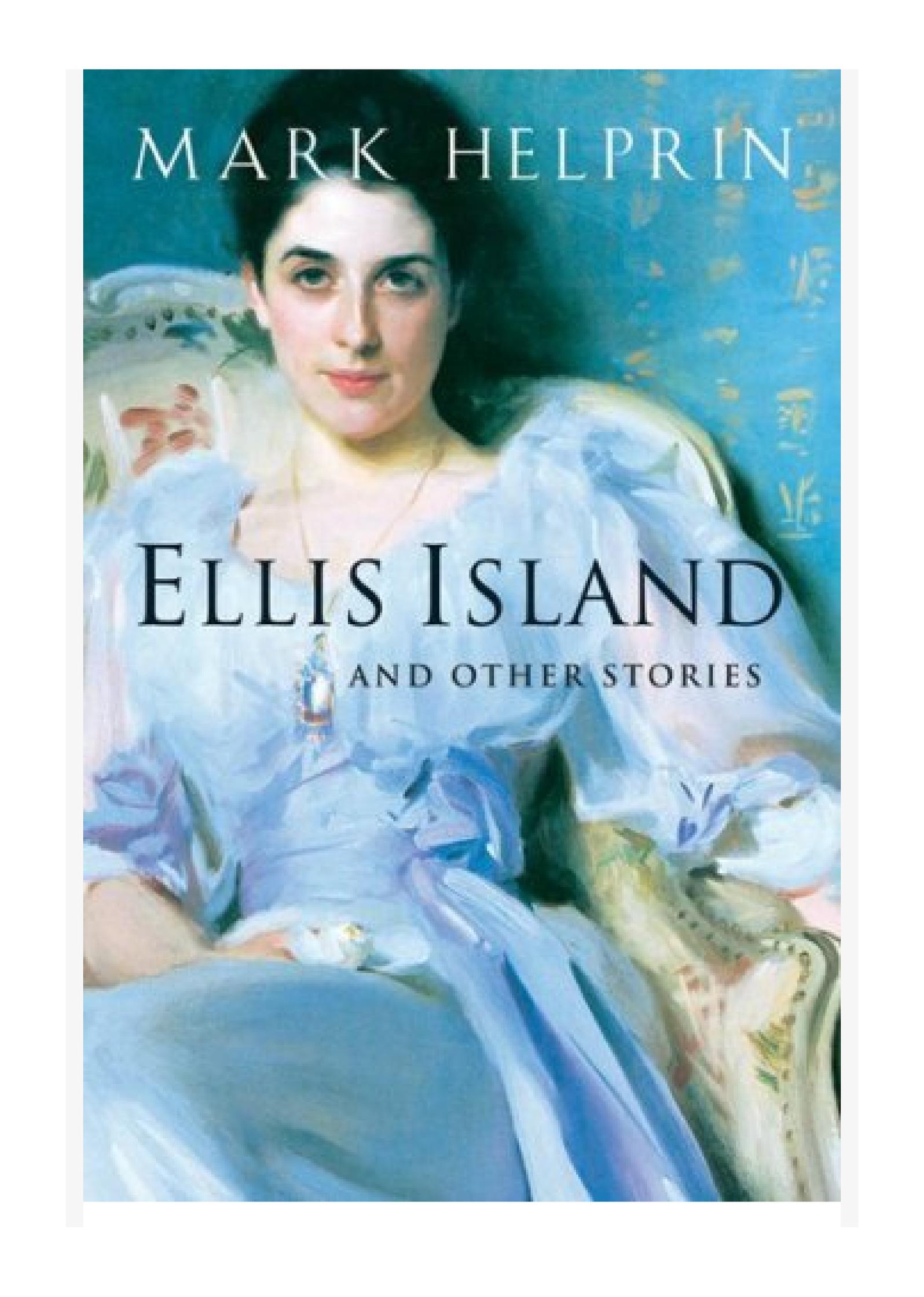
Posted on 15 June 2017 By Mark Helprin

[Read Epub] ? Ellis Island and Other Stories ? Weplayit.co

Home for the weekend, I pulled this collection of Mark Helprin's short stories off my brother's bookshelf to peruse it. Already a devoted fan of Helprin's novels, I had found this one in

the library several years ago and eagerly read through it I remember being quite impressed, and leafing through the stories again, stopping to read certain passages or whole selections, I'm reminded why a reviewer once commented that Mark Helprin writes as if he grew up everywhere, and it's quite probable he derived that impression from this collection. From the snowy foothills of the Tyrol, to early 20th century New York, to the modern day Israeli army, Helprin deftly renders each scene fully and convincingly, letting the atmosphere pervade the background of the story without overwhelming the characters or plot. And it is, as always, in the characters and, impressively, in the interactions between them, that Helprin truly shines. In the brief *La Volpaia*, he sketches an aged priest slyly needling an arrogant young traveler with a trick that catches the reader off guard as well. *Tamar*, perhaps the strongest of the offerings here, is a touching ode to those scintillating sparks of connection that are forged in random moments of happenstance the kind which are recalled sharply to memory years later by some subtle sensory trigger, made all the poignant by their brevity. Helprin possesses an uncanny ability to convey almost effortlessly a particular emotion or frame of mind. His account of an aging attorney's unanticipated river journey in *Palais de Justice* will evoke memories of challenge and triumph, while even those who have never engaged in battle will feel the tense anticipation of the soldiers in *North Light*. Not every story is a wild success: the Melville-esque aesthetic of *Letters from the Samantha* falls a bit flat. Still, Helprin's richly expressive prose makes even the near misses a profitable read. At their strongest, however, Helprin's subtle, haunting tales forge a lasting impression and solidly cement the author among the masters of modern fiction. Mark Helprin's writing is most evocative and moving, for me, when he writes about weather. Perhaps it's because I first read *Winter's Tale* as a girl, and his descriptions of, well, winter, imprinted on me. Many of these stories seem quite German to me, in the style of Mann and even Kafka. [Read Epub] ? *Ellis Island and Other Stories* ? Winner Of The Prix De Rome And The National Jewish Book Award, These Ten Stories And The Title Novella, *Ellis Island*, Exhibit Tremendous Range And Versatility Of Style And Technique, Yet Are Closely Unified In Their Beauty And In Their Concern With Enduring And Universal Questions. This collection includes two memorable stories: *The Schreuderspitze* and *A Vermont Tale*, a few good ones and a number that are at least to this reader totally obscure. Mark Helprin is clearly a most gifted and versatile writer, but Hemingway-esque he isn't. *Ellis Island and Other Stories* will appeal to connoisseurs of literary style and descriptive passages than to those whose tastes run to the direct and spare. Interesting group of stories. Loved the visual imagery created by these stories. Some of the stories were like self-contained and visually evocative scenes than narrative-driven tales, but at their best they are both. They have a good spirit too. Great collection of short stories, humorous, sad, thought-provoking. Real good reading. I usually appreciate short stories as a light-commitment way to try an unfamiliar author. Here I took into account that this was written early in his career. I also noted the comparisons with earlier, mature authors of this genre: Poe, Kafka, Mann and

perhaps the most highly praised writer of his generation back jacket blurb by the publisher published this at age 33 This mainly leads me to conclude that he studiously read and imitated his predecessors The Schreuderspitze definitely captured an Austrian Alpine ambience and indirectly the protagonist's state of mind Mannesque, Letters from the Samantha was convincingly a period piece Poe than David Mitchell David Mitchell's start of Cloud Atlas Cloud Atlas Then in the following story, Martin Bayer, I he his editor tripped over this description from the soi disant 10 3 5 year old Martin thinking of nearby farmyards and their populations of raucous, jovial hogs, sarcastic chickens, and bleating lambs Our author lost my good faith here Sarcastic is contrived, bleating is banal I might sum him up with overworked But I put my foot down at reading his North Light a Recollection in the Present Tense which is about IDF combat soldiers on the verge of going into battle I checked Jewish American Helprin's biography and he indeed became an Israeli citizen in 1977 and served in the IDF infantry and the IAF per WP EN but a skim of the story showed me I'm better off sticking with bona fide Israeli authors even with the consideration that gifted actor Itay Tiran didn't serve I forget why, need to look this up and has played soldier roles masterfully Even non-combatant, draft dodging Israelis are authentic than what North Light provides Sorry, no And of course it doesn't help to see that he's since become a conservative commentator I was looking forward to this collection and finally reading Mr Helprin It started out very good, but with each passing story, I got very tired of his style I found it stilted, cold and drowning in the weight of simile After pages and pages of forced comparisons I wanted to shout DONT TELL ME WHAT ITS LIKETELL ME WHAT IT IS Reading Helprin was like reading a how to write descriptively undergrad textbook Technically all the elements were there, but none of the enjoyment I know this collection won all sorts of awards, and I know he is a very talented writer, but some times writers and readers just don't click He's not for me, but please don't let me stop you from picking this book up, because I'm clearly missing something. Helprin is my favorite living author I've written glowingly of his work numerous times and the only thing keeping me from doing so again is I can't think of enough superlatives His stories are masterpieces of subtlety and understated emotion My favorite story in this compilation is A Vermont Tale, the ending of which will haunt me for years Palais de Justice is written on a theme with which I can readily identify, but all of the stories are worth the reader's time, if for no other reason than to happen across a beautifully crafted sentence that makes one pause and give thanks for being able to read.



MARK HELPRIN

ELLIS ISLAND
AND OTHER STORIES

New Post

Harlem Redux

Devil's Gonna Get Him

When Death Comes Stealing

Darkness and the Devil Behind Me: A Lanie Price Mystery

Pleasantville

In the Night of the Heat

Murder in G Major

Vows, Vendettas and a Little Black Dress

Lust, Loathing and a Little Lip Gloss

Orange Crushed

The Last Firefly

BLUE SUN: A C. J. Cavanaugh Mystery

Shades Of Black: Crime And Mystery Stories By African-American Authors

The Butcher

A Good Excuse to Be Bad

Recent Post

Devil in a Blue Dress

Blanche on the Lam

A Little Yellow Dog

Little Scarlet

Black Betty

Cinnamon Kiss

Fearless Jones

Blonde Faith

Gone Fishin'

The Long Fall

Hollywood Homicide

Black Water Rising

Bad Boy Brawly Brown

The Man in My Basement

Fear Itself

A Rage in Harlem

Casanegra

A Red Death

Blanche Among the Talented Tenth

Blanche Cleans Up

The Cutting Season

Blanche Passes Go

Land of Shadows

Freedom is Not Free

Bayou City Blues (Rashard "Stone" Williams Mysteries #2

Black Orchid Blues

Harlem Redux