



## The Yellow Wallpaper: and Other Short Stories

By Charlotte Perkins Gilman

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**The Yellow Wallpaper: and Other Short Stories** By Charlotte Perkins Gilman

The title story is presented in the first person, the story is a collection of journal entries written by a woman (Jane) whose physician husband (John) has confined her to the upstairs bedroom of a house he has rented for the summer. She is forbidden from working and has to hide her journal from him, so she can recuperate from what he calls a "temporary nervous depression – a slight hysterical tendency," a diagnosis common to women in that period. The windows of the room are barred, and there is a gate across the top of the stairs, allowing her husband to control her access to the rest of the house. The story depicts the effect of confinement on the narrator's mental health and her descent into psychosis. With nothing to stimulate her, she becomes obsessed by the pattern and color of the wallpaper. "It is the strangest yellow, that wall-paper! It makes me think of all the yellow things I ever saw – not beautiful ones like buttercups, but old foul, bad yellow things. But there is something else about that paper – the smell! ... The only thing I can think of that it is like is the color of the paper! A yellow smell." other stories are; THREE THANKSGIVINGS ACCORDING TO SOLOMON HER HOUSEKEEPER AN OFFENDER MARTHA'S MOTHER WHEN I WAS A WITCH MAKING A LIVING THE COTTAGETTE

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*By Charlotte Perkins Gilman*

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## **The Yellow Wallpaper: and Other Short Stories** By Charlotte Perkins Gilman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #10995053 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-21
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .26" w x 6.00" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 114 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

The author was a utopian feminist during a time when her accomplishments were exceptional for women, and she served as a role model for future generations of feminists because of her unorthodox concepts and lifestyle. Her best remembered work today is her semi-autobiographical short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" which she wrote after a severe bout of postpartum psychosis.

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