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The Collected Short Stories of Richard Yates

Methuen, £9.99

This compendium of two collections and nine uncollected stories was first published in the U.S. in 2001; along with the simultaneous republication of Yates's most acclaimed novel, *Revolutionary Road* (1961), it has largely been responsible for the regeneration of interest in this troubled devotee of the craft of fiction. Unusually for such a book, it made the best-seller lists, thereby encouraging a subsequent republication of much of Yates's oeuvre. While every Yates story provides its own stylistic and thematic justification of his reputation as a writer's writer, the real treat here is his first collection, *Eleven Kinds of Loneliness* (1962), a kind of *Dubliners* for New Yorkers that is the acme of Yates's equivalently quirky version of realism. The introduction by Richard Russo is not particularly inviting, but this is the volume that will best welcome first-timers into Yates's unblinkingly honest fictional world.

John Kenny