The short story has become an increasingly important genre since the mid-nineteenth century. Complementing The Cambridge Introduction to the American Short Story, this book examines the development of the short story in Britain and other English-language literatures. It considers issues of form and style alongside – and often as part of – a broader discussion of publishing history and the cultural contexts in which the short story has flourished and continues to flourish. In its structure the book provides a chronological survey of the form, usefully grouping writers to show the development of the genre over time. Starting with Dickens and Kipling, the chapters cover key authors from the past two centuries and up to the present day. The focus on form, literary history and cultural context, together with the highlighting of the greatest short stories and their authors, make this a stimulating and informative overview for all students of English literature.

Adrian Hunter is Lecturer in English at the University of Stirling.
Cambridge Introductions to Literature

This series is designed to introduce students to key topics and authors. Accessible and lively, these introductions will also appeal to readers who want to broaden their understanding of the books and authors they enjoy.

- Ideal for students, teachers, and lecturers
- Concise, yet packed with essential information
- Key suggestions for further reading

Titles in this series:
Christopher Balme  The Cambridge Introduction to Theatre Studies
Eric Bulson  The Cambridge Introduction to James Joyce
Warren Chernaik  The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare’s History
  Plays
John Xiros Cooper  The Cambridge Introduction to T. S. Eliot
Patrick Corcoran  The Cambridge Introduction to Francophone Literature
Gregg Crane  The Cambridge Introduction to The Nineteenth-Century
  American Novel
Kirk Curnutt  The Cambridge Introduction to F. Scott Fitzgerald
Janette Dillon  The Cambridge Introduction to Early English Theatre
Janette Dillon  The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare’s Tragedies
Jane Goldman  The Cambridge Introduction to Virginia Woolf
Kevin J. Hayes  The Cambridge Introduction to Herman Melville
Nancy Henry  The Cambridge Introduction to George Eliot
Leslie Hill  The Cambridge Introduction to Jacques Derrida
David Holdeman  The Cambridge Introduction to W. B. Yeats
C. L. Innes  The Cambridge Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures
M. Jimmie Killingsworth  The Cambridge Introduction to Walt Whitman
Pericles Lewis  The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism
Ronan McDonald  The Cambridge Introduction to Samuel Beckett
Wendy Martin  The Cambridge Introduction to Emily Dickinson
Peter Motley  The Cambridge Introduction to Creative Writing
Ira Nadel  The Cambridge Introduction to Ezra Pound
Leland S. Person  The Cambridge Introduction to Nathaniel Hawthorne
John Peters  The Cambridge Introduction to Joseph Conrad
Sarah Robbins  The Cambridge Introduction to Harriet Beecher Stowe
Martin Scofield  The Cambridge Introduction to the American Short Story
Emma Smith  The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare
Peter Thomson  The Cambridge Introduction to English Theatre, 1660–1900
Janet Todd  The Cambridge Introduction to Jane Austen
Jennifer Wallace  The Cambridge Introduction to Tragedy
The Cambridge Introduction to the Short Story in English

ADRIAN HUNTER
## Contents

**Acknowledgements**  
*page* vii

**Introduction**  
*page* 1

### Part I: The nineteenth century  
*page* 5

**Introduction: publishers, plots and prestige**  
*page* 6

Chapter 1  
Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy  
*page* 10

Chapter 2  
Rudyard Kipling and Joseph Conrad  
*page* 20

Chapter 3  
The *Yellow Book* circle and the 1890s avant-garde  
*page* 32

### Part II: The modernist short story  
*page* 43

**Introduction: ‘complete with missing parts’**  
*page* 44

Chapter 4  
James Joyce  
*page* 50

Chapter 5  
Virginia Woolf  
*page* 62

Chapter 6  
Katherine Mansfield  
*page* 72

Chapter 7  
Samuel Beckett  
*page* 84

### Part III: Post-modernist stories  
*page* 95

**Introduction: theories of form**  
*page* 96

Chapter 8  
Frank O’Connor and Sean O’Faolain  
*page* 99

Chapter 9  
Elizabeth Bowen and V. S. Pritchett  
*page* 112

Chapter 10  
Angela Carter and Ian McEwan  
*page* 125
Contents

Part IV: Postcolonial and other stories 137

Introduction: a ‘minor’ literature? 138

Chapter 11 Frank Sargeson and Marjorie Barnard 142

Chapter 12 James Kelman and Chinua Achebe 154

Chapter 13 Alice Munro 165

Notes 177

Guide to further reading 188

Index 197
Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the University of Stirling and the Arts and Humanities Research Council for funding the period of research leave that allowed me to complete this book. I am likewise indebted to John Coyle for overseeing my early work on the short story and for continuing to hear me out on the subject. For advice, pointers and support of various other sorts I am grateful to Allison Bow, Glennis Byron, Valentine Cunningham, Jennifer Ellis, Scott Hames, Jacqui Harrop, Donald Mackenzie, Robert Miles, Adam Piette, Chris Powici, James Procter, Angela Smith, Joanne Thomson and Rory Watson.