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- "The Necklace," Guy de Maupassant (France, 1884) 46

 She was one of those pretty and charming girls who are sometimes, as if by a mistake of destiny, born in a family of clerks.
- "A Trifle from Real Life," Anton Chekhov (Russia, 1888) 53
 Nikolai Ilitch Belayeff was a young gentleman of St. Petersburg, aged thirty-two, rosy, well fed, and a patron of the race-tracks.
- "Two Portraits," Kate Chopin (United States, 1895) 58

 Alberta having looked not very long into life, had not looked very far.
- "The Americanization of Shadrach Cohen," Bruno Lessing (United States, 1903) 62

There is no set rule for the turning of the worm; most worms, however, turn unexpectedly.

"Araby," James Joyce (Ireland, 1914) 69

North Richmond Street, being blind, was a quiet street except at the hour when the Christian Brothers' School set the boys free.



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"War," Luigi Pirandello (Italy, 1918) 74

The passengers who had left Rome by the night express had had to stop until dawn at the small station of Fabriano in order to continue their journey by the small old-fashioned local joining the main line with Sulmona.

- "The Egg," Sherwood Anderson (United States, 1920) 78

 My father was, I am sure, intended by nature to be a cheerful, kindly man.
- "Babylon Revisited," F. Scott Fitzgerald (United States, 1931) 86
 "And where's Mr. Campbell?" Charlie asked.
- "The Man Who Was Almost a Man," Richard Wright (United States, 1940) 103

Dave struck out across the fields, looking homeward through paling light.

- "Dead Men's Path," Chinua Achebe (Nigeria, 1953) 113

 Michael Obi's hopes were fulfilled much earlier than he had expected.
- "Six Feet of the Country," Nadine Gordimer (South Africa, 1953) 116

My wife and I are not real farmers—not even Lerice, really.

"Like a Bad Dream," Heinrich Böll (Germany, 1966) 126

That evening we had invited the Zumpens over for dinner, nice people; it was through my father-in-law that we had got to know them: ever since we have been married he has helped me to meet people who can be useful to me in business, and Zumpen can be useful: he is chairman of a committee which places contracts for large housing projects, and I have married into the excavating business.

- "Swaddling Clothes," Mishima Yukio (Japan, 1966) 132 He was always busy, Toshiko's husband.
- "A Handful of Dates," Tayeb Salih (Sudan, 1968) 137 I must have been very young at the time.
- "The Plane Reservation," Massud Farzan (Iran, 1969) 14: We lived on 23 Sadness Street.
- "The Verb to Kill, Luisa Valenzuela (Argentina, 1975) 147

 He kills—he killed—he will kill—he has killed—he had killed—he will have killed—he would have killed—he is killing—he was killing—he has been killing—he would have been killing—he will have been killing—he will be killing—he would be killing—he may kill.
- "Girl," Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua, 1978) 150
 Wash the white clothes on Monday and put them on the stone heap . . .
- "A Woman Like Me," Xi Xi (Hong Kong, 1982) 152 A woman like me is actually unsuitable for any man's love.



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"The Street-Sweeping Show," Feng Jicai (China, 1982) 163
"National Cleanup Week starts today," said Secretary Zhao, "and officials everywhere are going out to join in the street sweeping."

"The Grass-Eaters," Krishnan Varma (India, 1985) 167

For some time several years ago I was tutor to a spherical boy (now a spherical youth).

"Las papas," Julio Ortega (Peru, 1988) 171

He turned on the faucet of the kitchen sink and washed off the knife.

"Village," Estela Portillo Trambley (United States, 1989) 176 Rico stood on top of a bluff overlooking Mai Cao.

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