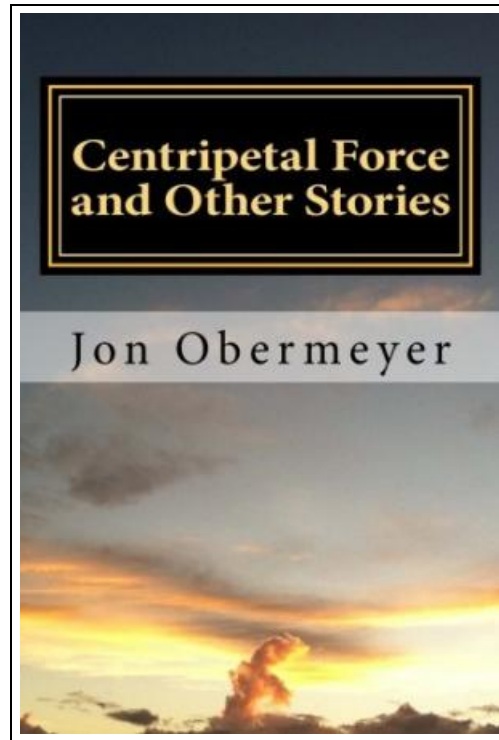


## Centripetal Force and Other Stories (Paperback)



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*(Alana McCullough)*

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David Sedaris wrote, A good short story should take me out of myself and then stuff me back in, oversized, now, and uneasy with the fit. Sixteen stories are included in Jon Obermeyer s second collection of short fiction. Both cautionary and comic, these post-2008 financial meltdown tales feature characters who are caught off guard, in their personal lives and in financial status. A divorced man finds witnessing the aftermath of a horrific highway accident strangely purifying. A retired auto inspection mechanic finds himself kicked out of an art crawl open house, and it triggers flashback to an incident on a high school football field. A homeowner and father worries that the ex-con handyman fixing his termite-damaged subflooring might also be a suspect in a local murder. Two couples, one wealthy, the other struggling financially, vacation together in Italy, as one marriage disintegrates and the other relationship is strangely affirmed. A woman is forced to choose a way to assuage the hurt of an absent boyfriend over a holiday weekend, possibly reuniting with a former finance. An unemployed poet decides to open a retail store devoted solely to one book, his 400-page opus about the working man. The author in his preface writes: For two years in the early part of this century, I wrote the annual circus program for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Circus. I ventured each December to Ringling Winter Quarters at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, and spent three weeks interviewing the performers and watching the new acts in rehearsal. To make the circus interesting for the 12-year-old boys who were the target audience for the book, we planned a series of graphics alongside the...



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