

mark that vote down as 'doubtful.'" One governor told "about how he was born in a log cabin he built with his own hands."

For light but informative reading, try *Tennessee Political Humor*.

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**Grubbs, Morris Allen, Editor. *Home and Beyond:*  
*An Anthology of Kentucky Short Stories*  
The University Press of Kentucky, 2001, 424 pages**

*Home and Beyond* is a remarkable collection of forty short stories, each by a different "Kentucky Writer." Not all of the contributors are natives or even adopted citizens of the Commonwealth, but as editor Grubbs explains, "Their personal identities and often their fiction and poetry are shaped by their Kentucky experiences." Professor Grubbs has helpfully provided a concise biographical sketch of each author, listing his or her major works.

This anthology covers the post-World War II period through the 1990s. The stories from 1945 through 1960 reflect "a sense of impending loss," and those of the 'sixties and 'seventies are set "in a world where the home is mobile and the characters are adrift." The stories written after 1980 "refocus on a sense of being connected to a place and the sense of home." Perhaps this emphasis on family ties and "belonging" amid overwhelming social and economic change is why I can identify with and enjoy these later stories as much as I do.

My favorite is Wendell Berry's "That Distant Land," written in 1986. It seems to me so beautiful that it's almost poetry. Other stories which I especially enjoyed were "The Gift" (1957) by Janice Holt Giles; "Fur in the Hickory" (1953) by Billy C. Clark; "Play Like I'm Sheriff" (1968) by Jack Cady; "A Fellow Made Himself Up" (1982) by Leon V. Driskell; "The Fugitive" (1984) by Richard Cortez Day; "Dr. Livingston's Grotto" (1989) by Normandi Ellis; "Belinda's World Tour" (1993) by Guy Davenport; and "The Way It Felt to be Falling" (1993) by Kim Edwards. I realize, of course, that other readers will find their own favorites among the forty selections.

There are many more of these stories that I will revisit, even those dark tales which poignantly and truthfully describe troubled minds and tortured souls. While I can't honestly say that I "enjoy" some of these

stories with their harsh images and coarse, even "vile" language, I will grant their realism and their effectiveness in conveying their message.

*Home and Beyond* appears to be a bit "pricey" at \$38 until one considers the variety and quality of work within its sturdy covers and that its purchase is like investing in a compact library of widely diverse and well-crafted short stories told by and about twentieth century Americans under Kentucky's spell.

**Joe Bone**

**Rutherford, Tennessee**

