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## To Cut a Long Story Short

By Jeffrey Archer



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To Cut a Long Story Short By Jeffrey Archer

In this short story collection by Jeffrey Archer, a dying man doesn't know which of his relations to leave his fortune to, only to find out who really cares about him. A chance overheard conversation changes the course of an entire man's life. A woman savors every word of a letter from her lover while her husband reads over her shoulder. A criminal on the loose confesses that he is desperate to be caught. A widowed mother learns the cold truth about her second husband at the dawn of her third marriage. A pencil, the cruelest of the artist's tools, leaves nothing to chance... in *To Cut a Long Story Short*.

**This edition of the book is the deluxe, tall rack mass market paperback.**



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## To Cut a Long Story Short By Jeffrey Archer Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

*To Cut a Long Story Short* reads like a series of modern fairy tales. In each story, Jeffrey Archer presents a moral problem, and a character finds himself tested in a dark hour. Evil manifests itself in the form of selfish relatives, corrupt cops, racist men. Good arrives in the form of unselfish minor characters who suddenly emerge as the real center of the story, or lost souls who come out the other side of corruption and renounce their old ways.

In "The Endgame" Cornelius Barrington decides to fake a bankruptcy. As one of the richest men in his small town, he hopes his sudden plunge into poverty will reveal the true character of his friends and relatives. He calls in debts, asks to borrow money from those he has lent to in the past, only to be turned away time and again.

After lunch Cornelius took a bus into town--a novel experience. It was some time before he located a bus stop, and then he discovered that the conductor didn't have change for a twenty pound note. His first call after he had been dropped off in the town centre was to the local estate agent, who didn't seem surprised to see him. Cornelius was delighted to find how quickly the rumour of his financial demise must be spreading.

"The Endgame" is a complex tale with a clear message. Not all the stories in *To Cut a Long Story Short* attempt such weightiness. "The Expert Witness" is a delightful parody of the legal system, a portrait of two pub mates--a lawyer and an expert witness--who often find themselves facing off in the courtroom, pretending not to know each other. Certain pieces (glimpses, vignettes) last a mere two pages, but whatever the length or weight of the story, throughout this collection Archer has a light touch, a quick wit, and a thorough understanding of the mechanics of suspense. --Emily White

### From Publishers Weekly

This collection of sometimes intriguing, sometimes obvious stories is best suited to a series of short car trips rather than one long one: the listener tends to catch on fast to the O'Henry-esque endings, so the stories are less entertaining all at a gulp. And some might well have been cut shorter. Archer is least successful when the surprise endings turn solely on legal technicalities--as in "Crime Pays" and "Both Sides Against the Middle"--but a lot of fun when he interweaves legal issues with the relationships among the characters--as he does so well in "The Expert Witness" and "The End Game." These two particular stories also work well because, just when listeners think they've got the surprise ending, the plot thickens and twists again and then again. Some of the pieces are based on true incidents. In "A Change of Heart," for example, a South African bigot causes a car accident. The driver of the other car dies, and the bigot's life is saved by a heart transplant--the heart of the black man he killed in the accident. These are lighthearted stories, and Bill Wallace's reading is marvelous. He has a pleasing voice and crisp British accent that are entirely appropriate here, and he knows how to handle humor, irony and character differentiation without overdoing it. Simultaneous release with the HarperCollins hardcover (Forecasts, Dec. 11, 2000).

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### From Library Journal

Thrillmeister Archer cuts to the chase: a new collection of short stories.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Angela Gagne:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the book untitled To Cut a Long Story Short can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

#### **Molly Cooper:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a guide. The book To Cut a Long Story Short it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

#### **Michael Canton:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book especially book entitled To Cut a Long Story Short the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one contact form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get before. The To Cut a Long Story Short giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful details for your better life in this particular era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

#### **Abigail Shelton:**

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