My Personal Review:
The stories have a common theme of a relationship based on sex that breaks up. In one a marriage ends. In two or three of them men have brief homosexual affairs. Some are set in a mid-west childhood. Some describe a family with a psychotic daughter but I don't think they'd be useful to a family with such a daughter and I suspect the author would disdain fiction with a helpful purpose. The mentally ill do not get cured. Their eyes become "glassy with lithium" (no such side-effect of lithium I've ever come across but "realism" in literature often means the literary effect of realism rather than real realism). They are elegantly written. I suppose the style is minimalist or dirty realism, at least I thought of Raymond Carver. Mundane events and shabby surrounding are described in careful detail. The only one with real sense of comedy is "A Quick Kiss of Redemption" where teenagers explore a hidden passage in a church when they should be in Sunday school and find themselves looking down at the congregation as service starts and make out above the worshippers. Even that one ends on a pessimistic note. The stories often end in those profound short-story-ending sentences that are supposed to tell us something meaningful about life such as "There will be plenty of things I don't understand, things that I will do and regret long after they're over, things that will take a long time to forgive" which remind me of the deep wisdom of the ancient Bulgarian proverb "no leg is too short to reach the ground." So why five stars? They're good. They are very, very good.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
A Quick Kiss of Redemption and Other Stories: & Other Stories by David Means - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!