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(Name or Place of Publication), (Date)

It actually sounds *too* easy; perhaps even self-indulgent. An author is telling his readers it's okay to enjoy a guilt-free glass or two of wine while reading his new book. Hmm...the more that idea settles in, the more appealing it really sounds!

The book, "Short Stories to Enjoy with Wine" is the first installment in a new series of books full of fictional short stories and novelettes that are all related to wine. The author, Stephen Kristof, got the idea for his new series merely by listening to many people in his social circle who endorsed the therapeutic benefits of two unlikely bedfellows; wine and reading!

Kristof explained, "A lot of people enjoy a glass or two of their favorite wine with dinner and do so daily without feeling guilty. But when it comes to enjoying the same glass or two while digging-into a book during the evening or on a weekend afternoon, it just seems a bit decadent."

In that sense, he's somewhat correct. While people living in many different parts of the world wouldn't think twice about lifting a glass of vino in any circumstance or at any time of the day, the more temperate western perspective is far more restrictive. For many, the idea of drinking alone or of consuming wine apart from dinner is far too indulgent and is tied to inebriation.

"My motivation to write this book was to create something that a lot of people really want and, I think, need." Kristof explained, "For most people, there's nothing at all wrong with curling-up with a good book and some equally good wine! For goodness' sake, with all of the current chaos in our world and stress in our daily lives, a little self-pampering and harmless escape is much needed medicine."

His book checks the boxes. That stress he talks about is tied to the frenzied lifestyles that many of us have come to accept as normal. The lack of time in general, makes it hard to complete most things in our lives, including finishing a standard novel. So, the short story format that Kristof chose is perfect for our schedules. There's something delightfully satisfying about actually finishing a story in one sitting before moving onto another one at another time.

Each of the seventeen stories in this first volume are different from one another, but they share the common thread of wine, which of course, makes them quite appealing to wine enthusiasts! Some of the stories feature fictional winemakers, but most of them start off with an introduction to specific wine varietals. People who are "into" wine will really enjoy this compliment to the diverse and riveting stories.

So, what types of stories does Kristof give us? He somehow makes the jump from one genre to the next, so smoothly and in a way that satisfies our commonly short attention spans.

"It's true! You'll bounce from steamy romance, to mystery, to time travel, to crime, to lifestyles of the ultra-rich, and so-on. I can't imagine the reader becoming bored!"

Kristof's definitely onto something with this new series. And his timing is spot-on. So, guess what's on the menu for the next opportunity to just detach and relax? Wine and compelling fiction will do the trick!