



Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories

From Thomas, James (EDT)/ Shapard, Robert (EDT)

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Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories From Thomas, James (EDT)/ Shapard, Robert (EDT)

The eagerly anticipated anthology from the editors who coined the term “flash,” with stories by today’s best fiction writers.

After publication of the first *Flash Fiction* anthology over a decade ago, “flash” became part of the creative writing lexicon for readers, writers, students, and teachers. In this follow-up collection, the editors once again tackle the question: “How short can a story be and truly be a story?” Determined to find the best flashes from America in the twenty-first century, James Thomas and Robert Shapard searched everywhere for stories that were not merely good but memorable. Moving, and certainly unforgettable, this collection includes stories from the best and most popular fiction writers of our time, including Ron Carlson, Robert Coover, Steve Almond, Amy Hempel, A. M. Homes, Grace Paley, and Paul Theroux. In addition, Rick Moody properly defines *armoire*, Lydia Davis delves into a world of cats, and Dave Eggers explores narrow escapes. Over and over, these stories prove that often less is more.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In their second collection of "flash fiction" stories-aka "short shorts"-Thomas and Shapard have pulled together almost 80 works that are consistently swift and powerful, distilling the intricacies and flourish of short fiction into just a few pages. In "The Memory Priest of the Creech People," Paul Theroux's protagonist preserves the collective memory of the Creech people before he is cannibalized by his constituency. Hannah Bottomy's "Currents" replays in reverse the events surrounding the drowning of a young boy. Ron Carlson's "The Great Open Mouth Anti-Sadness" witnesses a father laying drunk on his bed after his daughter's wedding, feeling the whirl of the overhead fan and struggling to name his emotions. Jack Handey's darkly comic "The Voices in My Head," Lon Otto's parable of debating sloths in Costa Rica and David Galef's hilarious "My Date with Neanderthal Woman" provide laughs. Profound revelations develop in Leonardo's Alishan's "The Black City," in which a minor shaving injury provides the vehicle for a frightening psychological journey; and in Barbara Jackson's "Gemoetry Can Fail Us," in which a man's struggle to fell a tree leads to surprising insight into his wife's love. Exquisite entries from a number of other notable authors, including John Edgar Wideman, Richard Bausch, A.M. Homes, Dave Eggers, John Updike, Amy Hempel, Tony Earley and Rick Moody will also delight. Ranging in style from crisp, sober realism to outlandish surrealism, these small treasures make a convincing argument for the relevance and vitality of this little-celebrated genre.

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From [Booklist](#)

Flash Fiction (1992) promulgated the joys of very short stories and started a trend. The "flash" approach has proven extremely popular for writers and readers alike, and the editors were curious as to why. Is it because our attention span has atrophied, thanks to our ardor for instant messaging and other snap electronic communications? Or is it because stories no longer than 750 words are compressed in the way that poetry is concentrated, so that flash fiction has impact and is memorable? Although the form is concise, the subjects broached tend to be substantial, and it is a particular pleasure to read these pared-to-the-bone stories that cover the spectrum from blithe to intense, funny to sad. The 80 writers gathered here range from emerging to well known. John Edgar Wideman imagines a man in the rain with a banana. Katharine Weber makes babysitting mysterious. Ander Monson presents "To Reduce Your Likelihood of Murder." Charles Baxter, Grace Paley, Ray Gonzalez, Ann Hood, Melanie Rae Thon, Richard Bausch, and John Updike all appear like flashes of lightning. *Donna Seaman*

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About the Author

Robert Shapard directed the University of Hawaii MFA program and now lives in Austin, Texas.

James Thomas has received two NEA grants and a Stegner Fellowship; he lives in Xenia, Ohio.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Blecha:

The book Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make looking at a book Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories to get your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a reserve Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this e-book?

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Maria Levine:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Todd Lyons:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

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