



The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field

By Tara L. Masih

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With its unprecedented gathering of 25 brief essays by experts in the field, *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction* meets the growing need for a concise yet creative exploration of the re-emerging genre popularly known as flash fiction. The book's introduction provides, for the first time, a comprehensive history of the short short story, from its early roots and hitherto unknown early publications and appearances, to its current state and practice. This guide is a must for anyone in the field of short fiction who teaches, writes, and is interested in its genesis and practice.

Featuring essays by: Steve Almond, Rusty Barnes, Randall Brown, Mark Budman, Stace Budzko, Robert Olen Butler, Ron Carlson, Pamelyn Casto, Kim Chinquee, Stuart Dybek, Pia Z. Ehrhardt, Sherrie Flick, Vanessa Gebbie, Tom Hazuka, Nathan Leslie, Michael Martone, Julio Ortega, Pamela Painter, Jayne Anne Phillips, Jennifer Pieroni, Shouhua Qi, Bruce Holland Rogers, Robert Shapard, Deb Olin Unferth, Lex Williford

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Accessible enough for pleasure reading but instructive enough for the classroom, this volume brings together brief essays by 25 writers known for their talent in flash fiction, aka the "short short story," roughly defined as a tale "1-3 pages and 250-1,000 words" long. Along with personal musings on the genre, each author provides a prompt, and their own short piece to illustrate it. Editor and fiction writer Masih provides a remarkably thorough history of flash fiction, dating the phrase "short short story" to a 1926 issue of Collier's Weekly. Contributors include award-winning writer Jayne Anne Phillips, who writes that "one-page fiction should hang in the air of the mind like an image made of smoke"; Shouhua Qi shares her thoughts on the Chinese short short, which they also call a "Smoke-Long story," as in the time it takes to smoke a cigarette; and Vanessa Gebbie, who reminds us of Hemmingway's famous 6-word story: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." Robert Olen Butler and Steve Almond discuss the difference between flash fiction and prose poetry, the former remarking that "fiction is the art form of human yearning"; Almond, meanwhile, chronicles his journey from bad poetry to good short stories. An expansive list of further reading rounds out this smart, fun, provocative guide to an increasingly popular form.

Review

A thoughtful and thought-provoking resource, casting fresh light on the practice of flash fiction. Each essay is a gem, encrusted with outstanding prompts and valuable exercises. Anyone who hopes to write (or teach) the very short fiction form needs to read this book. --Dinty W. Moore, editor of *The MAMMOTH Book of Miniscule Fiction*

There are many writing guides brought in on the wave of creative writing courses steadily multiplying across the globe. There are good ones and bad ones: the *Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction* is definitely a good one; I would even say a very good one. It doesn't promise unparalleled success or anything else it can't deliver, but does provide real insight into how writers work in this medium doing by exactly what it says on the cover - providing guidance that gently leads the would-be flash writer along the path to making their own work truly shine. --Jacky Taylor, How Publishing *Really Works*, online July 27, 2009

About the Author

Tara L. Masih received a BA in English and a minor in sociology from C. W. Post College, and an MA in Writing and Publishing from Emerson College (where she taught freshman composition and grammar). As an in-house editor, she worked for Little, Brown's college division and Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, and now freelances for companies such as Ballantine Books and Harvard University Press. Her writing has won awards, and several flash fiction chapbooks were published by The Feral Press. She is author of the story collection *Where the Dog Star Never Glows* (Press 53), editor of the award-winning *Chalk Circle: Intercultural Prizewinning Essays* (Wyatt-MacKenzie), and series editor of *The Best Small Fictions* (Queen's Ferry Press).

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Elizabeth Frizzell:

Often the book The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field will bring someone to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to read, this book very suitable to you. The book The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

Christopher Larsen:

The reserve untitled The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field is the publication that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to you. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of investigation when write the book, therefore the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

Judith Craig:

This The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field is new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information because it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field can be the light food for you because the information inside this book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books build itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in publication form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this book is the answer. So there is not any in reading a reserve especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book type for your better life along with knowledge.

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