



# Short Story Fiction

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**2022**

**Bhanoo, Sindya. *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere: Stories***  
**FIC Bhanoo**

These intimate stories of South Indian immigrants and the families they left behind center women's lives and ask how women both claim and surrender power. Traveling from Pittsburgh to Eastern Washington to Tamil Nadu, these stories about dislocation and dissonance see immigrants and their families confront the costs of leaving and staying, identifying sublime symmetries in lives growing apart.

**Brockmeier, Kevin. *The Ghost Variations: One Hundred Stories***  
**FIC Brockmeier**

Ghost stories tap into our most primal emotions as they encourage us to confront the timeless question: What comes after death? Here, in tales that are by turn scary, funny, philosophic, and touching, that question is sharpened, split, reconsidered—and met with a multitude of answers.

**Chen, Te-Ping. *Land of Big Numbers*** **FIC Chen**  
Cutting between clear-eyed realism and tongue-in-cheek magical realism, Chen's stories coalesce into a portrait of a people striving for openings where mobility is limited. Twins take radically different paths: one becomes a professional gamer, the other a political activist. A woman moves to the city to work at a government call center and is followed by her violent ex-boyfriend. A man is swept into the high-risk, high-reward temptations of China's volatile stock exchange. With acute social insight, Chen layers years of experience reporting on the ground in China with incantatory prose in this taut, surprising debut, proving herself both a remarkable cultural critic and an astonishingly accomplished new literary voice.

**Doyle, Roddy. *Life Without Children: Stories*** **FIC Doyle**  
Love and marriage. Children and family. Death and grief. Life touches everyone the same. But living under lockdown, it changes us alone. In these ten beautifully moving short stories written mostly over the last year, Booker Prize winner Roddy Doyle paints a collective portrait of our strange times. A man abroad wanders the stag-and-hen-strewn streets of Newcastle, as news of the virus at home asks him to question his next move. An exhausted nurse struggles to let go, having lost a much-loved patient in isolation. A middle-aged son, barred from his mother's funeral, wakes to an oncoming hangover of regret.

**Enriquez, Mariana. *The Dangers of Smoking in Bed: Stories***  
**FIC Enriquez**  
Mariana Enriquez has been critically lauded for her unconventional and sociopolitical stories of the macabre. Populated by unruly teenagers, crooked witches, homeless ghosts, and hungry women, they walk the uneasy line between urban realism and horror. The stories in her new collection are as terrifying as they are socially conscious, and press into being the unspoken—fetish, illness, the female body, the darkness of human history—with bracing urgency.

**Evans, Danielle. *The Office of Historical Corrections***  
**FIC Evans**  
Danielle Evans is widely acclaimed for her blisteringly smart voice and X-ray insights into complex human relationships. Evans zooms in on particular moments and relationships in her characters' lives in a way that allows them to speak to larger issues of race, culture, and history. She introduces us to Black and multiracial characters who are experiencing the universal confusions of lust and love, and getting walloped by grief—all while exploring how history haunts us, personally and collectively. Ultimately, she provokes us to think about the truths of American history.

**Fu, Kim. *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Stories* FIC Fu**

In the twelve unforgettable tales, the strange is made familiar and the familiar strange, such that a girl growing wings on her legs feels like an ordinary rite of passage, while a bug-infested house becomes an impossible, Kafkaesque nightmare. These visions of modern life wrestle with themes of death and technological consequence, guilt and sexuality, and unmask the contradictions that exist within all of us. Mesmerizing, electric, and wholly original, Fu's book blurs the boundaries of the real and fantastic, offering intricate and surprising insights into human nature.

**Jen, Gish. *Thank You, Mr. Nixon: Stories* FIC Jen**

The acclaimed, award-winning author of *The Resisters* takes measure of the fifty years since the opening of China and its unexpected effects on the lives of ordinary people. It is a unique book that only Jen could write—a story collection accruing the power of a novel as it proceeds. Beginning with a cheery letter penned by a Chinese girl in heaven to “poor Mr. Nixon” in hell, Gish Jen embarks on a fictional journey through U.S.-China relations, capturing the excitement of a world on the brink of tectonic change.

**Lippman, Laura. *Seasonal Work: Stories***

**FIC MYS Lippman**

In a suspenseful collection of stories featuring fierce women—including one never-before-published novella, Lippman showcases why she is one of today's top crime writers. The award-winning master of psychological suspense is in top form in this collection of diverse and diabolically clever stories. Seven other brilliantly crafted stories of deception, murder, dangerous games, and love gone wrong—irrefutable evidence that Laura Lippman's riveting fiction will more than satisfy any crime reader.

**Lovesey, Peter. *Reader, I Buried Them & Other Stories***

**FIC MYS Lovesey**

On the occasion of his hundredth short story, Peter Lovesey has assembled this devilishly clever collection, eighteen yarns of mystery, melancholy, and mischief, inhabiting such deadly settings as a theater, a monastery, and the book publishing industry. The collection includes that first story that launched his story-writing career as well as three exclusive new stories. In addition, Lovesey's fans will delight in a personal essay by the author about the historical inspirations—and in an appearance by the irascible Bath detective Peter Diamond, who has, in the author's words, “bulldozed his way” into this volume.

**McCracken, Elizabeth. *The Souvenir Museum: Stories* FIC McCracken**

McCracken traces how our closely held desires—for intimacy, atonement, comfort—bloom and wither against the indifferent passing of time. Her characters embark on journeys that leave them indelibly changed—and so do her readers. In these stories, the mysterious bonds of family are tested, transformed, fractured, and fortified.

**Moniz, Dantiel. *Milk Blood Heat: Stories* FIC Moniz**

These stories depict the sultry lives of Floridians in intergenerational tales that contemplate human connection, race, womanhood, inheritance, and the elemental darkness in us all. Set among the cities and suburbs of Florida, each story delves into the ordinary worlds of young girls, women, and men who find themselves confronted by extraordinary moments of violent personal reckoning.

**Mosley, Walter. *The Awkward Black Man***

**FIC Mosley**

Mosley presents distinct characters as they struggle to move through the world in each of these stories—heroes who are awkward, nerdy, self-defeating, self-involved, and, on the whole, odd. He overturns the stereotypes that corral black male characters and paints a subtle, powerful portrait of each of these unique individuals.

**Suzuki, Izumi. *Terminal Boredom: Stories***

**FIC Suzuki**

At turns nonchalantly hip and charmingly deranged, Suzuki's singular slant on speculative fiction would be echoed in countless later works, from Margaret Atwood and Harumi Murakami, to *Black Mirror* and *Ex Machina*. In these darkly playful and punky stories, the fantastical elements are always earthed by the universal pettiness of strife between the sexes, and the gritty reality of life on the lower rungs, whatever planet that ladder might be on.

**Taylor, Brandon. *Filthy Animals***

**FIC Taylor**

Psychologically taut and quietly devastating, these stories are a tender portrait of the fierce longing for intimacy, the lingering presence of pain, and the desire for love in a world that seems, more often than not, to withhold it.

**Walker, Martin. *Bruno's Challenge & Other Stories of the French Countryside* FIC MYS Walker**

In story after story, Bruno settles town disputes, mediates family quarrels, and tracks down lawbreakers in his adored village of St. Denis and its environs. Featured meals in the collection include a fatty Christmas goose, a savory nettle soup with crème fraîche, and a fluffy quiche Lorraine.

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