

SERIOUSFLASH FICTION



Edited By Ben Warden

Serious Flash Fiction

#SFFiction

SERIOUS FLASH
FICTION

Edited and Introduced by
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Serious Flash Fiction

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DEDICATION

Huge thanks goes to all the people, artists and storytellers who got involved in the project. If you wrote a story, retweeted or promoted the project, this is for you.

The world needs stories.
Thanks to everyone who gave theirs.

Serious Flash Fiction

THE CHALLENGE

The Serious Flash Fiction project ran as a Twitter challenge from May 17th to June 30th, 2014. It asked storytellers (not just writers) to create a story using just 129 characters. Entrants could also use photos to enhance their stories.

The project was inspired by the wealth of narrative bouncing around Twitter and the creative opportunities that the constraints of 140 characters can offer.

To be able to group all this narrative together all the contributors were asked to hash-tag their flash fiction with #SFFiction. Hence the 129 characters challenge was born, as I'd stolen 11 characters from twitter's 140 character limit. (What a bad man!?!)

Within this tight and maybe commercial remit has come a great collection of serious flash fiction, which you can find within this anthology. The diversity that the writers have managed to deliver, in such a tight constraint, is a real testament to the diversity of stories, genres and styles, and to the power of storytelling.

FORWARD

The landscape in which the conventional story/novel sits has rapidly changed in recent years. We have seen the rise of a self-publishing culture, a move to electronic distribution and many of us now read from a device rather than from a conventional paperback. Alongside these changes a number of new formats have also arisen. Blogs, fan fiction and twitter fiction are just some of the new formats blossoming out of the internet and social networking sites.

It strikes me, that in this new environment, there are so many demands on our time and our attention span seems to be growing ever more limited. We want instant interest from the things we read and we don't have time to search them out. As a writer that creates all sorts of new challenges for finding a readership and often makes me wonder if anyone really has time to read a book these days. As a reader it means that I am never going to be aware of all the fantastic stories out there, never mind have time to read them all.

Twitter is a particularly fascinating format, as it really taps into a culture of instant, in the moment, communication. It also revolves around bite-size pieces of information, with a maximum 140 characters to each post. Yet within this very tight structure many people are telling stories and, importantly, people are reading.

#SFFiction

I personally think that anything that gets people to read is a good thing. Reading is so important to our culture. It allows us to experience lives, worlds and thoughts outside our own. We can then use this experience to inspire ideas, challenge concepts and inform our own art. It is vitally important to our personal and cultural development.

The Serious Flash Fiction project allowed storytellers to test their creativity in a new, unique and challenging format; but it also aimed to provide readers with a way into an interesting and fairly new form of storytelling.

In a world with this many distractions and demands on our time, we can forget the importance of reading. I hope that the Serious Flash Fiction project has helped promote reading (even if it is just between the contributors).

This anthology collects a group of the best #SFFiction stories and also adapts their format to, hopefully, allow more people to find and read these great flash pieces.

Despite their easily accessible length, I hope you find yourself absorbed by some of the writing in this anthology and I hope you'll find the time to be a reader.

Ben Warden

LET'S KICK OFF WITH SOME MOMENTUM

Staring out at the reflection. Feel vibrations under your seat. Settle in, open a book. A thrust of power & you're on your way.

By [@bex_spence](#)



We clean, cook, work, walk to, wait, sleep,
peel, see, listen, believe, faith, hope, pray,
wait again, pray, hope, read, believe.

By [@CJBWriter](#)

A BIT OF RHYTHM

"If music be the food of love then you need to widen your tastes or you'll starve", she told me as she moved onto the next table.

By [@philiplickley](#)



"It's just a state of mind," I told myself. I entered the packed auditorium. Saw no one. Guided by the music, I sang.

By [@MMJaye](#)

IN TO THE MIX

3 women, sand dunes, low tide, scratched legs, a crowbar- Lena knew what they saw through the glass-bottomed boat was connected.

By [@GreenKhgr](#)



The crowd applauded. "One more trick," the magician said. "The climax to the show." He waved his staff and the audience vanished.

By [@AlibearNS](#)

#SFFiction

The hole is as black as my conscious. The tarp fills it completely. It's what's inside that matters-my sins and the lifeless body

By [@daleenviljoen2](#)



"Now try it on me!" Shouted Tracy, giggling.

"Ok" called her brother and re-activated the microbeam. Neither were seen again

By [@tk4721](#)

Serious Flash Fiction

I sat watching over the valley. The flames climbed ever higher in front of me. I lay back and grasped the small box in my hand.

By [@WardenGeorgina](#)



"It's what's on the inside that counts" she kept repeating as she peeled the skin from his corpse. "Soon you'll be beautiful! "

By [@SandyDavis](#)

#SFFiction

Hands that tell so much. Ingrained with stories, memories past. That one scar holds the most pain. No explanation, no apologies.

By [@bex_spence](#)



"You will know soon enough", it had said.
What caught my attention was that the
picture was dated 75 years ago
- and I was in it.

By [@Gnub](#)

Serious Flash Fiction

She loved him but he died. In the past she tries to fix the future. Chaos ensues. Love. Loss. Grief. Fate takes the upper hand.

By [@AmalieJahn](#)



I ran out into the rainy night, blood soaking my hands. I was trembling with adrenalin, but the job was done. Time to get paid.

By [@WarCry_75](#)

#SFFiction

Raining, wet, summer raining. Lovely view,
trickling sounds, socks drying, kettles boiling.
An English rain.

By [@CJBWriter](#)



He was pointing a gun at her, until the
cartoonist took his eraser to him. Then
Death brought his eraser to bear on the
cartoonist

By [@21stCscribe](#)

What's the point of life if everything has to end? Live, and make the most of what you have. I know now that's what I have to do.

By [@Kate_Sykes](#)¹



¹ Big thanks to Kate for being the only contributor to tackle the challenge using another form of storytelling. I love this picture as an addition to her story.

#SFFiction

The Security chaps chased me all through
the park. Oh how I wished I had been able
to retrieve my trousers from Matron's office.

BY [@dieselephants](#)



The funeral was a quiet affair. The departed
had no friends or family. The coffin
languished in the empty church,
no-one cared

By [@tk4721](#)

Serious Flash Fiction

Two people sit close by. Neither talking,
neither dare. Knowing what will happen
once they do. Dry mouths, wet faces.
It's over.

By [@bex_spence](#)



Her Mum prayed she'd make enough.
Martha's prayers were different. She started
to write her novel, "Destined to be Rich"

By [@efinley3](#)

#SFFiction

The new girl in class is pretty.
I feel funny when she looks at me.
Does she know how much I like her?
I'm gonna push her over.

By [@Crabjamsandwich](#)



Add some ham and a bit of mustard. Salad.
No tomatoes. Some red onions. To go? Yes.
That's £3.00 please. I thought it was £2.99?!

By [@CJBWriter](#)

A day filled with thanks
A family fills in the blanks
of each other's hearts
A whole made from parts

By [@ReginaPucket](#)



And with a puff of smoke, the stranger was
gone. He thought to himself, 'wow, this
smoke machine is good'!

By [@LethalGinGenie](#)

THE AUTHORS

You can follow all the contributors and myself on Twitter. All contributors have been referred to using their twitter IDs, so that you can find them quickly and easily. If your reading this on PDF, just click the names and you'll be taken to the contributors site.

Twitter is a great portal for finding established and up and coming artists, all of which need readers like you to grow.

I really hope you'll visit some of the contributors profiles to find more of their fantastic work.

[@Ben Warden](#)

www.benwardenauthor.com



#SFfiction

“I Follow The Addled Butterfly.
Not Sure Why, But I Do.
Led Astray By A Cabbage White;
To Paths And Flowers And Truths.”

@BEN_WARDEN

