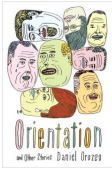


# Short End of the Stick



I have to admit, even as someone who has great appreciation for short stories, I often find it hard to muster the same kind of enthusiasm for reading them as I do when approaching the pleasant immersion of a novel. But I've proven myself wrong so many times, as I take up a book with a sense of duty and find myself thoroughly enthralled instead. Short stories are perfect for those with a hectic schedule (or a short attention span); they offer condensed, pithy prose and plot, and they can often alert you to a new talent before everyone's going crazy for their debut novel. I was inspired to write this post by Daniel Orozco's Orientation, which I just read. "Officer Weeps" in particular is one my my favorite short stories ever. His characters are weird and liminal--a woman on a late-night cookie binge, an ex-dictator, a pair of officers falling in love amidst an odd vandalism streak--and he presents them with hilarious and terrible brevity. Here are a few other collections that I really enjoyed, written with a similarly strange focus and an equal blend of heartbreak and humor.

July, Miranda - No One Belongs Here More Than You

Pleasantly twee, these stories could be dark given their subject matter--like rejected, desperate women seducing teenagers or becoming sex workers--but their stylish, flat delivery puts more emphasis on the great strangeness of being human than the particular sadness of these situations.

Link, Kelly - Magic For Beginners

Deeply strange things are taken for granted in this supernatural book. It is the imagery that's most stayed with me--a house whose lawn is nightly taken over by scores of rabbits; a magic handbag; a late-night convenience store serving zombies. But don't underestimate Link's power to mine the deeply personal even as she dresses her stories in the outlandish.

Russel, Karen - St. Lucy's Home For Girls Raised By Wolves

Russel's novel Swamplandia! is a big deal now, and it began in this lovely collection's magical realism- and southern gothic-influenced tales of children and their joyfully and satirically described, odd and enchanted worlds.

Saunders, George - In Persuasion Nation

I love George Saunders. His surreal, futuristic dystopias are terribly plausible, pushed just far enough into absurdity to be funny without being only that. "My Flamboyant Grandson," for example, where a grandpa in the Big Apple begins to rebel at the constant, targeted barrage of customized ads, seems just a few steps away from our already over-saturated, over-advertised present.

Pro Tip: The library puts a red "Short Stories" label on the side of collections for easier browsing in the main fiction section.

Posted by mkinney on July 17, 2011

**Blogs:**

# For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews

## **Reviews Subjects:**

Fiction

Short Stories

## **Reviews Titles:**

In persuasion nation : stories

Magic for beginners

No one belongs here more than you : stories

Orientation : and other stories

St. Lucy's home for girls raised by wolves : stories

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### Links

- [1] <https://mcp1.info/blogs/love-reading/short-end-stick>
- [2] [https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=orientation%20and%20the%20stories%20in%20the%20book&by=KW&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M\\*&query=&page=0](https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=orientation%20and%20the%20stories%20in%20the%20book&by=KW&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M*&query=&page=0)
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- [4] <https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=mag%20ic%20beginning&sort=ALL&amp;by=1&sort=2-4th,%203rd&sort=ALL&amp;by=3-5&sort=6-10&sort=11-15&sort=16-20&sort=21-25&sort=26-30&sort=31-35&sort=36-40&sort=41-45&sort=46-50&sort=51-55&sort=56-60&sort=61-65&sort=66-70&sort=71-75&sort=76-80&sort=81-85&sort=86-90&sort=91-95&sort=96-100&sort=101-105&sort=106-110&sort=111-115&sort=116-120&sort=121-125&sort=126-130&sort=131-135&sort=136-140&sort=141-145&sort=146-150&sort=151-155&sort=156-160&sort=161-165&sort=166-170&sort=171-175&sort=176-180&sort=181-185&sort=186-190&sort=191-195&sort=196-200&sort=201-205&sort=206-210&sort=211-215&sort=216-220&sort=221-225&sort=226-230&sort=231-235&sort=236-240&sort=241-245&sort=246-250&sort=251-255&sort=256-260&sort=261-265&sort=266-270&sort=271-275&sort=276-280&sort=281-285&sort=286-290&sort=291-295&sort=296-300&sort=301-305&sort=306-310&sort=311-315&sort=316-320&sort=321-325&sort=326-330&sort=331-335&sort=336-340&sort=341-345&sort=346-350&sort=351-355&sort=356-360&sort=361-365&sort=366-370&sort=371-375&sort=376-380&sort=381-385&sort=386-390&sort=391-395&sort=396-400&sort=401-405&sort=406-410&sort=411-415&sort=416-420&sort=421-425&sort=426-430&sort=431-435&sort=436-440&sort=441-445&sort=446-450&sort=451-455&sort=456-460&sort=461-465&sort=466-470&sort=471-475&sort=476-480&sort=481-485&sort=486-490&sort=491-495&sort=496-500&sort=501-505&sort=506-510&sort=511-515&sort=516-520&sort=521-525&sort=526-530&sort=531-535&sort=536-540&sort=541-545&sort=546-550&sort=551-555&sort=556-560&sort=561-565&sort=566-570&sort=571-575&sort=576-580&sort=581-585&sort=586-590&sort=591-595&sort=596-600&sort=601-605&sort=606-610&sort=611-615&sort=616-620&sort=621-625&sort=626-630&sort=631-635&sort=636-640&sort=641-645&sort=646-650&sort=651-655&sort=656-660&sort=661-665&sort=666-670&sort=671-675&sort=676-680&sort=681-685&sort=686-690&sort=691-695&sort=696-700&sort=701-705&sort=706-710&sort=711-715&sort=716-720&sort=721-725&sort=726-730&sort=731-735&sort=736-740&sort=741-745&sort=746-750&sort=751-755&sort=756-760&sort=761-765&sort=766-770&sort=771-775&sort=776-780&sort=781-785&sort=786-790&sort=791-795&sort=796-800&sort=801-805&sort=806-810&sort=811-815&sort=816-820&sort=821-825&sort=826-830&sort=831-835&sort=836-840&sort=841-845&sort=846-850&sort=851-855&sort=856-860&sort=861-865&sort=866-870&sort=871-875&sort=876-880&sort=881-885&sort=886-890&sort=891-895&sort=896-900&sort=901-905&sort=906-910&sort=911-915&sort=916-920&sort=921-925&sort=926-930&sort=931-935&sort=936-940&sort=941-945&sort=946-950&sort=951-955&sort=956-960&sort=961-965&sort=966-970&sort=971-975&sort=976-980&sort=981-985&sort=986-990&sort=991-995&sort=996-1000>
- [5] [https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=st%20lucy%20and%20the%20wolves%20and%20the%20stories&by=1&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M\\*&query=&page=0](https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=st%20lucy%20and%20the%20wolves%20and%20the%20stories&by=1&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M*&query=&page=0)
- [6] [https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=st%20lucy%20and%20the%20wolves%20and%20the%20stories&by=1&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M\\*&query=&page=0](https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=st%20lucy%20and%20the%20wolves%20and%20the%20stories&by=1&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M*&query=&page=0)
- [7] [https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=st%20lucy%20and%20the%20wolves%20and%20the%20stories&by=1&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M\\*&query=&page=0](https://mcp1.monroe.la.us/search/short-stories.aspx?csw=1.1033.0.0.7&amp;type=Keyword&term=st%20lucy%20and%20the%20wolves%20and%20the%20stories&by=1&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=10M*&query=&page=0)
- [8] <https://mcp1.info/book/blog>
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