



## Free Five: Flash Fiction

*Paul D. Dail*

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## Free Five: Flash Fiction Details

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Author : Paul D. Dail

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# From Reader Review Free Five: Flash Fiction for online ebook

## Ronald Keeler says

Here is something to start out your day with a jolt (but painlessly). Flash fiction. It is quick to read and almost by definition authors create it to surprise you either by the content or innovative organization of ideas. Five Free Flash Fiction Pieces by Paul D. Dail does that. The only thing unsurprising about it is the price. Refer to the title. It is for sale on Amazon at the price indicated by the title.

The Professional Crier Penny Circe is a professional crier. Her tears have a gift although the gift doesn't work well. See if you can interpret the origins of the name of the protagonist before the author explains.

I Spy With My Little Eye You can't say Esmi didn't warn Tony. "Do you really want to do this." How many times does a girl have to ask?

Run, Rabbit. Run I've always had reservations about the idea that jackrabbits are creepy or scary. This piece might change my mind. But I won't smoke things I find in abandoned lunchboxes. Warning noted. Again, look at the author's explanation of where Pete's name came from.

The Death He Expected From the author "There is power in superstition." Add to that the fascination for many that comes from a perception of a supreme and ancient wisdom of Native American culture. The result is a scary story.

Another Oldie but Goodie Margaret had a favorite song. Her husband had sung it to her many times in many contexts. But all good things had a direct opposite. And the opposing side could kill you (again).

Other than the scary stories themselves, the author's explanations of what prompted each piece are entertaining. The entire work might take as much as twenty minutes to read. Then you can have that second cup of coffee before going to work.

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## J. Kahele says

### This author has

Some real talent! Even though her tales were very short, the writing was unique and engaging. My favorite tale would have to be the one about the professional crier.

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## Merredith says

This was a free super short book with super short, short scary stories. They're kind of like when you're a kid and you get those anthologies of scary stories from the book sale at school, yet much shorter even. I read the whole thing in a few minutes on a plane. They were fine, a bit short for my taste, but then it is called flash

fiction!

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### **SherwoodDemon says**

Does it count as read if I only read the stories and ignored most of the authors notes? Idk. ./ But I read the important parts, so I'll count them. ./

Not the very best short stories I've ever read. But far from the worst.c

I especially enjoyed the stories about the "professional crier" & the one about the rabbits. :)

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### **Melissa Levine says**

I don't see the point in writing a story this short, or Flash, as the author calls them. It's impossible for the reader to get involved in anything relating to the story. It's too short. These are like sneak peeks to longer stories, but sadly, these are it. The author had some good ideas but....

The author's summary? at the end each story, letting us know where he got the ideas for the stories...well those were almost as long as the stories themselves. Well, in all honestly, they did get my imagination going.

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### **Kevin Bufton says**

I love flash fiction. When done well it is the epitome of the storyteller's art, condensing a story to its bare essentials, delivering the tale with speed and sharpness of a well-aimed ice pick to the temples.

This collection, alas, is not done well.

It starts of okay, with 'The Professional Crier' being the best of a fairly mediocre bunch, and probably the best choice for an opener. The main character is intriguing (a teenage girl with the power to bring people back from the dead with her tears, if only for moments), and the whole thing has shades of the Edgar Allan Poe classic 'The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar'. I could see more being done with the protagonist, perhaps a novel, or even a series of them, assuming the author could develop her further.

It pretty much runs downhill from there. Whilst I'm happy to say that I wanted more of the first story, with 'I Spy with My Little Eye' and 'The Death He Expected' I needed more. Which is to say they read like snippets or vignettes from a longer work. The former, in particular, feels like the final reel of a Tarantino film, but with out any character or narrative development to get us there.

Sandwiched between the two is 'Run, Rabbit, Run' – easily the worst of the offerings presented here. A cautionary tale blending a mild anti-drug narrative with a spot of Native American folklore, to produce a story so limp that it couldn't sustain my interest over a mere 1000 words.

Fortunately, Dail redeems himself somewhat with his final story, 'Another Oldie but Goodie' which is much

better. What starts as standard horror fare (love and revenge that live on beyond the grave!) becomes more than the sum of its parts thanks to an innovative twist that I will not spoil here.

In all, it's a disappointing collection: two good stories, padded out with a whole lot of filler. It's a shame too, since Dail shows definite promise, but too many of the stories feel that they've either been rushed, or subjected to excessive whittling to get them down below his self-imposed word count limit.

Not recommended.

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### **Big Book Theory says**

These flash fiction stories are longer than the norm so I expected more detail, unfortunately it felt most of the times as if it was more excerpts plucked from a longer story rather than flash fiction. However, 'Another Oldie but Goodie' was awesome - it had a beginning and a great twist at the end. All-in-all it was an entertaining read.

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### **Sarah says**

Flash fiction is not for me. I understand that the point is to leave the reader wondering what happened before and what happens after the story ends, it's just a snapshot of the whole story. I don't like it.

Only 1 of the 5 stories did justice in that short amount of time.

"The Professional Crier" - I wish this one was a full story!

"I Spy With My Little Eye: - Again, I think this one could be made into a complete novel

"Run, Rabbit, Run" - Didn't like it

"The Death He Expected" - Too morbid for me

"Another Oldie But Goodie" - My favorite one! Kept me giggling after reading - simple but too the point with a funny twist ending

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### **Omnipotent Dystopian Now says**

This was my first flash fiction read and I was pleasantly surprised. It was kind of like reading a creative writing assignment, but the author is really good at it. My personal favorite was Run, Rabbit, Run. Really cool story that got my imagination going wild. I also liked Another Oldie But Goodie. Great for when your attention span is lacking but you're looking for something entertaining. Check it out!

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## **KL says**

### **5 Awesome Flashes**

Mr. Dail does with flash what aspiring novelists wish they could do. Loved all five of the stories, but the last one- Another Oldie but Goodie was my favorite.

Love the style of writing and appreciate the little insights that the author shared in the About section of each story. I will definitely be seeking out other works by Mr. Dail.

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## **SANDRA says**

ok I have never read a flash story.. Meaning it is 1000 words or less and the author gives us everything and nothing at the same time. He gives you enough to have your imagination go wild with all the possibilities! I actually enjoyed myself tremendously and I hope he ends up writing more on the characters, they were amazing!!

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## **TL says**

Last in my short story binge for now... clearing out ones on my Kindle app that have sat there for awhile.

Individual ratings:

*The Professional Crier* 2.5 stars

*I spy with my little eye* 2 stars

*Run, Rabbit, run* 2 stars

*The Death He Expected* 2.5 stars

*Another oldie but goodie* 3.5 stars... my favorite of the bunch.

Overall rating: 3 stars I guess... my first experience with flash fiction. Some stories this worked nicely even though they didn't blow me away. For two others, they would have been better if they were expanded upon, but still not horrible stories (but not great either).

The last one was my favorite of the bunch, and the only one I would probably re-read from time to time if I could get it by itself.

Final Verdict: something new to try with mixed results, may try more flash fiction in the future.

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## **AnnMarie says**

The 5 short stories in this book are really good and compelling! As great as they all are I felt like there was something missing in the 1st 3 stories. I know that sometimes imagination by the reader is needed for some stories. That relates to the 1st 3 stories in the the book: the professional crier , I spy with my little eye, and run rabbit run. The author writes something about each story after each story and even says something about

that with I spy with my little eye. That said, I do like to use my imagination in stories sometimes, depends on my mood. I do like these stories though! My favorite is the last one, Another Oldie But Goodie! About an old woman from an old age home that hears music from long ago. I got a real kick at the ending ;) this book was a treat to read!

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### **Cheryl M-M says**

Five very short stories

- The Professional Crier
- I Spy with my little Eye
- Run, Rabbit , Run
- The Death He Expected
- Another Oldie but Goodie

Although very well written, I can't say that any of them jumped out at me or were exceptional enough to awaken my interest. I thought 'The Professional Crier' was a good concept, which could be interesting enough to develop into a longer story.

A lukewarm quick read.

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### **Eric Pabon says**

I've never read flash fiction before, although I have written it. I just didn't realize it was a thing, I thought I was lazy. But to be fair, this collection was awesome. I enjoyed every story, some to differing degrees, but all enjoyable.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, my favorite was "Another Oldie But Goodie." It has everything one could imagine a short tale should have. a wonderfully interesting buildup, and an incredible twist, beautiful and funny.

I also truly enjoyed "The Professional Crier" He could very easily turn most of these into longer stories, but that he stopped them short leaves my imagination to its own, and it runs wild. Kudos to Paul D. Dail. Awesome job.

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