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A common dream for creative people is to earn a living by selling poems or short stories. Unfortunately, it's also a difficult career to break into. A variety of habits can help increase the chances of success, which can carefully study the market and the buyers in it. If you are willing to work hard, handle rejection well and are eager to improve your skills when people give you advice, you may be ready to succeed in the difficult world of publishing. Learn your chosen market wants. Write what you love and write every day. Develop a great writing style with passion and practice. Establish a habit of writing at a specific time with a specific goal every single day. Edit to perfection, then search objective opinions before submitting your story or poem. Polish your writing after others have given honest reviews. Make a list of target markets that pay. Note the editors names, any submission periods, publication ADDRESSES, formatting information, and special notes. Always submit manuscripts just as the market asks for them. Submit to paying markets. When you get a rejection, don't dwell on it. Instead, send to the next market on your list. As soon as you post a submission in the mail, sit down and write the next story or poem. Always work on a new story or poem. Market yourself. Establish a fanbase among those who have read your stories and poetry. Try connecting with those who use social networks or a website, and make sure they're aware of each new publication. Tip When you're sure of your talent, author conferences and conventions can help you network and provide inside information about what's hot. Explore emerging markets. For example, Amazon provides a simple self-publishing platform for authors, and some new short works are marketed mainly as iPhone apps. If your dream is to become a writer, look for other writing places to bring income while developing your fiction rarely provides a stable income. If a novel is like a nice bottle of wine (occasionally you surprise yourself by polishing one off in a single night) then a good short story is like a shot. After you have thrown one back, you feel like you have thrown one back, you feel like you have been punched in the face, but in a good way. Mostly. Novels can act as a soul pacifier, which is nice. But sometimes what you want is a jolt to your senses. You want to feel a great feeling quickly. And you don't want to let the tannins breathe or slogging your way through The Goldfinch, and you want is a lot of intense experiences. You want to be a dog racing over an army base covered in snow. You want to lose your mind and declare yourself the king of You want to wreak havoc in bloody emergency room, push a fistful of questionable pills into your mouth, and go driving. What you want is short stories. Here are my 10 recommendations for what to read, plus the shots to go with them. For mixologists, there are recipes. Also, since the best cure for hangovers is a hair of the dog, or a dose of what you did at night before, there are also links to more intoxicating stories from these authors. You'll be fiction drunk for months.1. Hell-Heaven by Jhumpa Lahiri + a ToastieWhy They Match: I'm about to risk sounding like a Jhumpa Lahiri character: the American girlfriend. She appears in several stories to say to her Indian boyfriend: I love your culture and your spicy food! and is always broken up with to be too basic to exist. But I love Jhumpa Lahiri's writing and spicy food! Hell-Heaven is a lovely story, and I'm sorry to say, quite aromatic. So enjoy it with a cinnamon drink to match. Toastie Recipe: Equal parts Amaretto and cinnamon snaps Hangover Cure: Unaccustomed Earth2. Emergency by Denis Johnson + a 911Why they match: 911 is dangerous because when the different alcohols combine (it mixes a spirit with a digestif and a liqueur) the effect trebles. Emergency is dangerous because it mixes hallucinogens, knives and rabbits. To put it another way, both will mess you up very quickly.911 Recipe: Equal parts Jack Daniels, Southern Comfort, and JägermeisterHangover Cure: Son of Jesus: Stories3. Drinking Coffee Elsewhere by ZZ Packer + an EspressoWhy They Match: This story is shot from guns. It opens with Dina, the protagonist, telling her fellow freshmen at orientation that if she could be any object, she would be a revolver. They recoil and her war on whiteness that is Yale begins. Her anger and wit are razor sharp and her story is as refreshing as a triple shot espresso. Espresso Recipe: Combine a café, a barista and a comfortable chairHangover Cure: Drinking Coffee Elsewhere (the eponymous collection)4. The Long Distance Runner by Grace Paley + a PicklebackWhy They Match: Grace Paley once said a good short story always has at least two stories. This is the story of a middle-aged woman visiting her former life, trying to figure out what comes next. It's also the story of Brooklyn - how neighborhoods continue to change, but never really change. This story is a Pickleback because nothing can be more Brooklyn than vodka and pickle juice, except Paley himself. Pickleback Recipe: One shot of vodka chased with one shot of pickle juice hanges in the last minute 5. Dog Heaven by Stephanie Vaughn + a Bomb PopWhy De Match: Dog Heaven is what America would look like if Americana were alive and well. The classic Norman Rockwell tropes are there - fathers in uniforms, mothers in aprons, children in mittens and a soulful, dog - but but they live in the vast shadow of the atomic bomb. This story will make you nostalgic for your childhood. You'll have a turbo rocket popsicle dripping down your fingers, but you need a drink. Thus Bomb Pop.Bomb Pop Recipe: Equal parts Sprite, lemon-flavored vodka, Blue Curacao and grenadineHangover Cure: Sweet Talk 6. Sonny's Blues by James Baldwin + Johnnie Walker RedWhy They Match: This story seems simple - a Harlem teacher takes in his lost younger brother, a musician and heroin addict who may or may not be able to stay clean. But how can Sonny's Blues be simple when it reads like the music it celebrates and fills you up with hope, aching grief, and the need to drink a lot of whiskey in a dark, quiet bar? Hangover Cure: Going to Meet The Man: Stories 7. Christmas Eve by Maeve Brennan + a three wise menWhy they match: If you are one of these people, like me, who is alternately morose and joyful at Christmas (it's a bad combination of being sentimental about an idyllic childhood and, well, mortality) than this is the story for you. Brennan takes melancholy up several notches just by being Irish. Three Wise Men Recipe: Equal parts Johnnie Walker, Jim Beam, and Jack Daniel's Hangover Cure: The Springs of Affection: Stories of Dublin 8. Diary of a Madman by Nikolai Gogol + a Russian RouletteWhy They Match: Reading Gogol is a much better bet than playing a round of Russian roulette, but the two experiences are similar: blatantly ridiculous and genuinely surprising. Gogol's absurdities will give you a spin. And when you try your luck on a few rounds of Russian roulette (the drink, please, actually Russian roulette will kill you) you can feel like the King of Spain itself. Russian roulette recipe: part kahlua, one part vodka, two parts Sambuca. This involves fire. Let a bartender do it Hangover Cure: Diary of a Maniac, Government Inspector and Selected Stories 9. Night School by Raymond Carver + a BoilermakerWhy They Match: Night School is the story of middle-aged, lonely people awake late at night. So it's fun. The story, like the drink, is fundamentally working class - straightforward without gimmick or frill. Both drink and history achieve a particular sense of hopelessness. It's not celebratory either. BoilerMaker Recipe: One shot of whiskey and one glass of beer Hangover Cure: Would you be quiet Please? 10. Good Country People by Flannery O'Connor + a Georgia PeachWhy They Match: Knocking back some Georgia Peaches will give you the confidence to try one of the best come-on lines ever. A line that could only come from Flannery O'Connor's mind. A line that makes this story one of the best ever written; Show me where your three-legged is coming. I can't think of a better recommendation than that. Georgia Peach Recipe: Equal parts peach snaps and Southern ComfortHangover A Good Man is Hard to Find Images: Connie Ma, Philpott, RG& B, ArchBishopJosh, gigi_NYC, classic_film, phantomx, trawin, NovoaR, Bror O'Mara/ Flickr When French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote: If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter about 500 years ago, little did he know that these words would still be used to describe the beauty of brevity. Writing is difficult, regardless of length, but it is true that a shorter but powerful message takes a certain skill. When it comes to a short story, for example, an entire plot must boil down to a handful of pages – creating emotion, conflict, and resolution in a few minutes of reading. That's probably why the payout of choosing a particularly poignant short story is so high. It is clear that the author executed a plan that made each word count, delivering a world that can appear as layered as one that was developed over a series of long chapters. We collected seven classic short stories that have mastered this craft for centuries since Pascal wrote the short but sweet letter. From recognisable historical writers such as Kate Chopin and Edgar Allan Poe to recent literary greats like Joyce Carol Oates, these classic short stories show that words can hold enormous weight when they are held to a tight standard. Read on to get our suggestions, and see such skills for yourself. Kate Chopin The story of an hour's \$3 Shop Memorable Quote: She breathed a quick plea that life can be long. It wasn't until yesterday that she thought with a quake that life could be long. When the famous writer Kate Chopin was just five years old, her father died in a train accident when a bridge collapsed between St. Louis and Jefferson City, Missouri. Her mother inherited a property worth \$25,000 - a large sum of money in 1885. Chopin recounts this story in The Story of an Hour, originally published in Vogue in 1894. But in the retelling, Chopin frames the sudden widow as feeling liberated from the constraints of marriage and excited about the possibilities of this freedom. And yet there is a surprising end that changes her plans. Joyce Carol Oates where are you going, where have you been? \$29 Shop Memorable Quote: But all the boys fell back and dissolved into a single face that wasn't even a face, but an idea, a feeling, mixed up with the urgent insistent pounding of the music and the humid night of July. First published in Epoch Magazine in 1966, and inspired by three Arizona killings that took place over the previous two years, Where Are You Been? centering around the secret activities of fifteen-year-old Connie. Unknown to her parents, Connie leaves her home at night to go to a Big Boy restaurant, where she is often approached by boys. One night, a stranger approaches her in a convertible, and she is charmed by him. And when he later shows up at her house, she is alone, the interaction becomes even more dangerous. Edgar Allan Poe The Tell-Tale Heart: And Other Stories \$20 Shop Memorable Quote: It's Impossible to Say Where First The Idea Got Into My Brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Probably among the most recognizable fictional short stories, this terrorizing classic by Edgar Allan Poe was first published in 1843 and may still cause audiences to tremble. The story is told by an unnamed narrator, who simultaneously confesses to murder, while ensuring the reader of their sanity. In the narrator's retelling, the victim — an old man with a vulture eye - was meticulously dismembered and buried under floorboards. The narrator thinks they got away with it, except that they don't seem to ignore a relentless thumping sound, which can be of a beating heart. Frank R. Stockton The Lady, or the tiger? \$6 Shop There is a good chance that you read this short story in an English class since it is often taught as a sterling example of an allegory. But here's a quick refresher of the story, which was first published in 1882. Set in a realm, the plot is about a public trial dreamed up by a king, in which he allows the defendant to choose between two doors. A door hides a woman of the king's choice, and if that door is picked, then the defendant is innocent and must marry her immediately. The second door hides a tiger, and if that door opens, the accused is killed and presumed guilty. The twist in the story is that the king has imprisoned his daughter's lover, a man he considers to be under her, and she knows which door belongs to the lady and the tiger. And as it turns out, she despises the lady. Shirley Jackson The Lottery \$16 \$14 Shop Memorable Quote: Although the villagers had forgotten the ritual and lost the original black box, they still remembered using stones. When this story was first published in 1948 in The New Yorker, it caused such outrage from readers that they canceled their subscriptions. So, in other words, it's good - so good, in fact, that it is often heralded as among the best in its genre. Set in a small village in New England, the story focuses on its eponymous lottery, where 300 locals are all excitedly preparing for a June day, while hearing rumors that other communities have pulled out. The children collect stones, and the adults make paper banknotes that show all the names of their neighbors. A family is eventually selected, and then the following round helps determine which person is selected in that family. When that person is selected, everyone gets a stone. F. Scott Fitzgerald Babylon Revisited \$15 Shop Memorable Quote: Never call if you can stay. F. Scott Fitzgerald published this story in The Saturday Evening Post in 1931, and it takes place during the previous after the stock market crash in 1929. The five-part story starts with protagonist Charlie Wales at the Ritz in Paris, and remembers the friends he used to drink with when he was much more of a party-goer. He's in town to visit his sister-in-law, who looks after his daughter after his wife's death. He wants to regain custody and move his daughter with him to Prague, but his sister-in-law doesn't trust his feast days to be behind him. Dorothy Parker Complete Stories \$15 Shop Memorable Quote: I Won't Call Him. I'll never call him again as long as I live. He rots in hell before I call him. As is the case with all of Dorothy Parker's writing, there is a cleverness in this story that makes it impossible not to enjoy. It's about a woman wondering why a man hasn't yet called her, even though he said he would. Is he busy? Is she going to get busy? Maybe she took the wrong time? Maybe she should call him? When she thinks of all these dizzying thoughts, she asks God to give her peace of mind, and perhaps some answers. It's fun and very relatable – even though today's standards have replaced a phone call with a text message. Text.

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