

55-Word Short Story Samples

THE UNDERSTUDY – Sheree Pellemier

"The show must go on," said the director when the star dropped dead moments before act one. The star, not the understudy, would play the corpse tonight.

The understudy changed quickly. His performance was inspired. The star was flawless in his final role. The understudy, fingering the syringe in his pocket, bowed to thunderous applause.

ACCIDENTS – Mark Cohen

Reginald Cooke had buried three wives before he married Cecile Northwood.

"Tragic accidents," he told her.
"How sad," replied Cecile. "Were they ... wealthy?"

"And beautiful," said Reginald.

They honeymooned in the Alps.

Later, Cecile told her new husband, "You know, darling, my first husband died in a tragic mountaineering accident."

"How sad," replied Justin Marlow.

AT THE CANYON-Curt Homan

The newlywed heiress oozed, "Poopsy, the sign reads, `Clairvoyant Canyon. Call Out a Question. Wait for Answering Echoes.'"

Overhanging a guardrail, she called, "Does he love me?"



"-Does he? Does he?" came the echo.

Discomfited, she tried again. "Is unhappiness behind me?"

"-Behind you, behind you-" it prognosticated, just before her new beneficiary shoved.

IN THE GARDEN-Hope A. Torres

Standing there in the garden, she saw him running toward her.

"Tina! My flower! The love of my life!" He'd said it at last.

"Oh, Tom!"

"Tina, my flower!"

"Oh, Tom! I love you, too!"

Tom reached her, knelt down, and quickly pushed her aside.

"My flower! You were standing on my prize-winning rose!"

"The Final 55"-Damon Brown

I've known it was coming ever since I made that bargain with the troll in the woods.

I received fame. Wealth.

I became the world's greatest writer.

But in return, he said I would disappear after writing one million words.

Maybe he lied. I was only 55 words away when I started this story.

Oh...

[The Memory Problem](#)-Sullivan Brown

Did I forget something? Pondered Jackson, as he sat upon his lavish wooden seat.

Perhaps someone's Birthday? A National Holiday? Merely a chore left undone?

Jackson kept hearing dialogue in his head. Words, exclamations, expressions. But that didn't pertain to what he forgot. Right?

As he thought, the Stage manager frantically paced behind the curtain.

[Serious fantasy](#)- Steve Recchia

"You're yawning a lot."

"I had trouble sleeping last night."

"Did you try counting sheep?"

"No. I got up and read fantasy."

"Fantasy? Sorcerers, princesses, and magic potions?"

"No. That's way too realistic for me. This is about a couple with three teenagers. All five of them are extremely happy together, and they never argue."

[Run](#)- Joanna Orda

Panting breath. Muddy shoes. He ran and ran and ran.

Snap!

Fear filled his eyes as the sweat dripping down his face seeped into his clothes, burning his skin with the dangers of what was yet to come.

"I can't get caught."

"Tag, you're it!" said 6-year-old Jake.

[Thanksgiving dinner](#)-Kelly Lindsay

As Tom tightened his grip around his brother-in-law, he could see he was turning a nice shade of blue.

He hated him as long as he could remember.

Knowing he would not regret following through with it, his only worry was, would his sister forgive him?

He decided to do the Heimlich anyway.

[The invasion](#)- Noah Johnson

The creatures have been circling our planet for days.

And now they are descending from the evening sky.

We knew this day would come.

Widespread panic ensues.

"Evacuate the cities! Get your families to safety! Hide anywhere you can!" the government warns.

The humans are coming. They've destroyed their home, now they want ours.

[There's No Place Like It](#)-Dean Christianson

The President was rushed to the Arizona desert to greet the arrival of the huge alien spacecraft.

"Peace," said the President.

"Thank you," said the very human-looking alien. "We've been on a million-year universal tour. We're excited about returning home."

"Please, visit. Then good journey."

"No, you misunderstand," said the alien.

"We *are* home."

Rendezvous-Nichole Weddle

The phone rang.

"Hello," she whispered.

"Victoria, it's me. Meet me by the dock at midnight."

"I'll be there, sweetheart."

And don't forget the bubbly, babe," he said.

"I won't darling. I want you tonight."

"I can't wait!" he said, and hung up.

She signed, then smiled.

"I wonder who that was," she said.