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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the Critical Insights Series: *Flash Fiction*

Salem Press is proud to announce *Critical Insights: Flash Fiction*, Edited by Michael Cocchiarale of Widener University, Pennsylvania and Scott D. Emmert of the University of Wisconsin. Although very short stories have a long history and have appeared under a number of labels, flash fiction is now the preferred term for this established genre that continues to grow in popularity. This volume aims to shed new light on the more contemporary engagements with these interestingly modern, yet also ancient, little stories and how they come to fit so neatly into our “fragmentary” world. This volume seeks to address the current deficiency of intellectual attention to this widely read genre, to give an introduction to teachers and students of its finest practitioners, and relieve the lack of critical discussion surrounding Flash fiction.

The first section of the volume, **Critical Contexts**, presents four different approaches for breaking down the Diary’s content: Pamelyn Casto provides an extensive background of anthologies in flash fiction from the 1920s, while Randall Brown distinguishes Flash fiction from other types of short stories. Lastly, Megan Giddings addresses narration and tense help compress content into a spasmodic form.

The next section, **Critical Readings**, contains nine essays exploring more specialized topics that provide additional fresh insights into *Flash Fiction*:

- “Kate Chopin’s Flash Fiction and Flash Fiction Theory” Robert C. Evans
- “Against Short Attention Spans: ‘Fragmentary’ Fiction for ‘Fragmentary’ Lives” Santino Prinzi
- “Living Together, Living Apart: Jews Under Oppressive Russian Regimes in Isaac Babel’s Flash Fiction” Eric Sterling
- “Latin American Flash Fiction: Julio Cortazar and Luisa Valenzuela” Laura Hatry
- “‘Art is not in some far-off place’: Lydia Davis’s ‘One Paragraph Freedom’” Julie Tanner
- “Shameful Secrets and Seducing the Whole World: Amy Hempel’s Flash Fiction and Female Sexuality” Laura Tansley
- “A few very unpleasant shocks’: Diane Williams and the Art of Flash Fiction” Matthew Duffus
- “Kathy Fish’s Flash Fiction: Fishing for Meaning in a Diminished World” Randall Brown

- “The Mathematics of the Heart: Mary Robison Considered as a Flash Fiction Novelist”
David Swann

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Flash Fiction* includes a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes.

In the final section, **Resources**, a **Chronology** of important dates is featured, followed by a selection of further reading. Also included in this volume is a **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editor** and **Contributors**, as well as an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Flash Fiction* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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