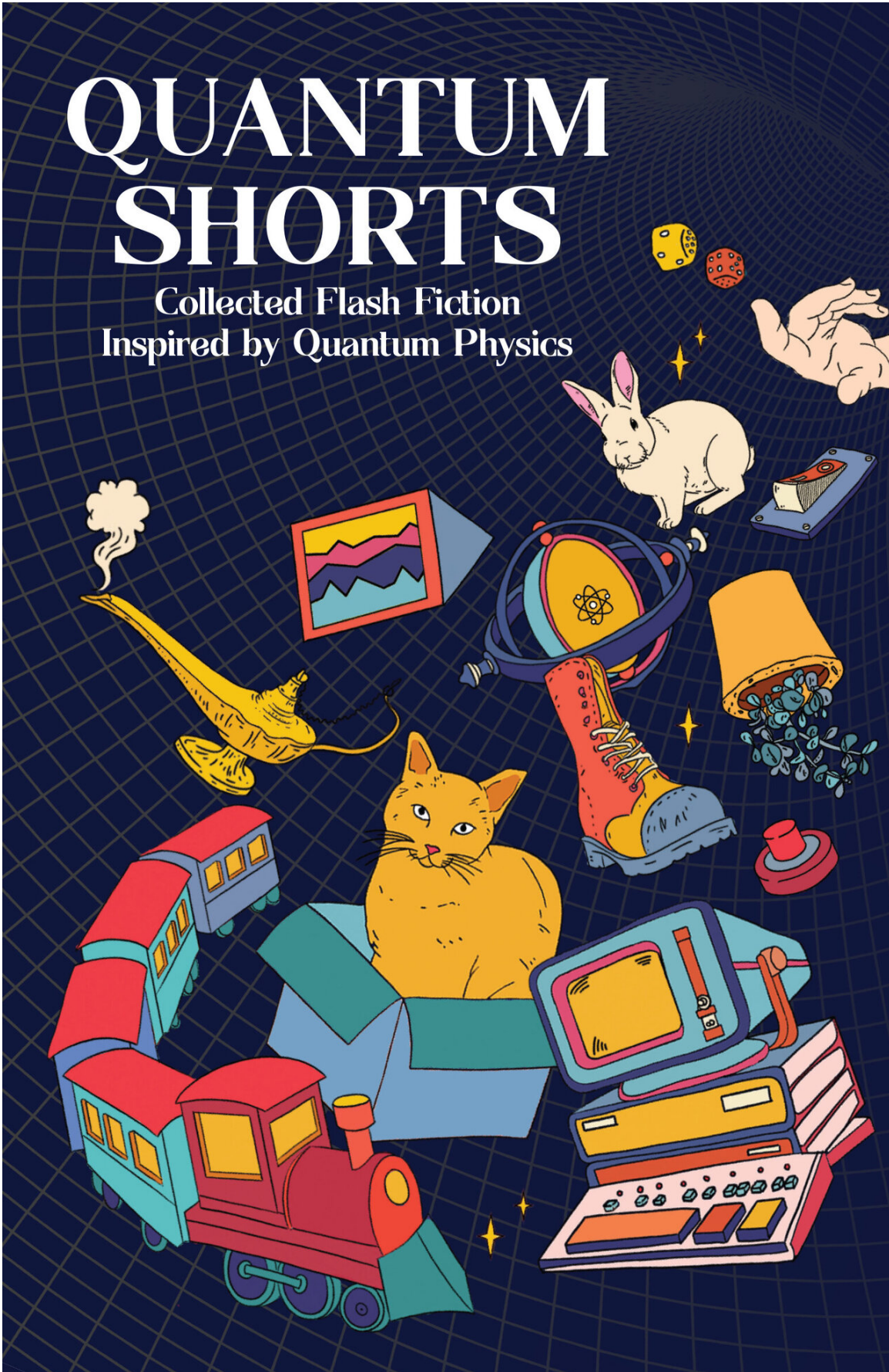


Short story collection to entangle readers in the quantum world

December 18 2019

QUANTUM SHORTS

Collected Flash Fiction
Inspired by Quantum Physics



Cover illustration by N. Syafiqah for the ebook *Quantum Shorts: Collected Flash Fiction Inspired by Quantum Physics*. Credit: N. Syafiqah

Are you ready to get entangled in the science of the very small? That's the thread running through a new anthology, *Quantum Shorts: Collected Flash Fiction Inspired by Quantum Physics*.

Available to download as a free e-book now, the anthology presents 37 stories shortlisted in three editions of the international Quantum Shorts competition.

Quantum physics is the counterintuitive science of the particles of light and matter. For scientists, it's best described in the language of mathematics and can be usefully designed into devices for computing, communication and sensing.

In the hands of writers, [quantum physics](#) has inspired stories that are whimsical and thought-provoking, ranging from bold futuristic imaginings to contemplations of the everyday. There are stories of lovers beginning their lives together, families facing crises, superheroes fighting their nemeses, and—of course—cats.

Quantum concepts including entanglement and superposition, as well as technologies such as [quantum computing](#), are woven into the stories—sometimes in hard sci-fi style, other times almost imperceptibly.

Each of the 37 "Quantum Shorts" in the collection total not more than 1000 words. They are the works of 32 writers from all over the world

who participated in the 2013, 2015 and 2017 editions of the annual Quantum Shorts competitions.

"I have been wowed by the talent this competition has unearthed," says Michael Brooks, one of the book's editors. "The stories in this book are a testament to human creativity—both for the science it unpicks and the imaginative and compelling narratives that the science has inspired."

In the book's foreword, quantum physicist Artur Ekert encourages creative exploration. "There is no contradiction between imagination and rational thinking," he writes. "I think that without imagination and fantasy you will never live your life to the full; you will never expand your horizons, or come up with [new ideas](#), inventions and discoveries."

Invention and imagination have made it an exciting time for quantum physics. Progress in quantum computing is claiming headlines and the plotting of Marvel's Avengers movies has put quantum physics in the public consciousness. For those who have always wanted to dip into the quantum world, Quantum Shorts is an invitation to dive in deeper.

Alternating between calls for [short](#) films and flash fiction inspired by quantum [physics](#) since 2012, the Quantum Shorts competition is now in its eighth year. A new call for flash fiction opened on 10 December with a deadline for entries of 29 February 2020. *Scientific American*, the longest continuously published magazine in the U.S., and *Nature*, the international weekly journal of [science](#), are media partners. Joining as a new scientific partner for fiction is the Dodd-Walls Centre for Photonic and Quantum Technologies in New Zealand. More details of all the competition's partners, guidelines to enter and a full set of rules are available at shorts.quantumlab.org.

More information: The e-book is available for free download on the Google Play Store, Apple Books, Kobo stores, as well as on

farisbooks.com and the Quantum Shorts website at shorts.quantumlah.org.

Provided by Centre for Quantum Technologies at the National University of Singapore

Citation: Short story collection to entangle readers in the quantum world (2019, December 18)
retrieved 2 May 2024 from
<https://phys.org/news/2019-12-short-story-entangle-readers-quantum.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.