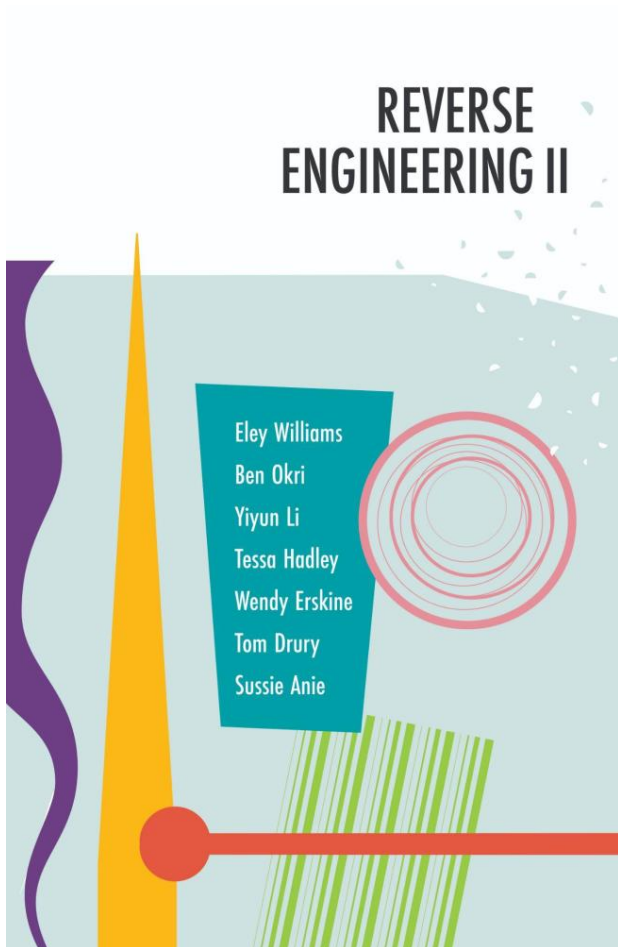


# Reverse Engineering II

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**Seven of the best recent short stories, disassembled by their authors.**

The sequel to the critically-acclaimed *Reverse Engineering*. An innovative anthology revealing the inspiration, the ideals and the work involved in a great short story. *Reverse Engineering II* brings together contemporary classic stories with their authors' discussions of how they were written.

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## Praise for *Reverse Engineering*

‘Rich with insight into the craft and the art of the short story, this book will delight both writers and readers.’

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‘This impressive collection reads like a celebration of the craft of story-writing itself. The triumph of *Reverse Engineering* is that despite accepted norms of short story craft, every author offers something different.’

**The Observer**

‘*Reverse Engineering* will be of huge interest to both practitioners and fans of the short story and to anyone interested in how art gets made. An anthology to inspire and encourage anyone who reads it.’

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‘A collection of hugely illuminating conversations, packed with insights into everything from inspiration and the drafting process to setting, character, theme, ideology and the handling of voice, point of view, structure and style.’

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This anthology will inject writers with creative adrenaline and provide short story readers with a new slant of light into the craft. Seven exceptional stories are followed by interviews with the authors about their process and inspiration, each as unique and nourishing as the narratives themselves.

**The Irish Times**

The stories collected here are unified by what the editor calls their “vivacious diversity,” and the stories and interviews certainly display a broad range of approaches to the art.

**The LA Review of Books**

*Reverse Engineering* is breaking new ground for the short story, offering a unique insight not just into the mechanics of writing exceptional short fiction, but the inherent joy that is to be found in the form for both reader and writer.

**Lunate**



Scratch  
Books

The stories in this book are excellent and varied. Conaghan asks good questions, and gets good answers. In placing each story before each interview there is a delicate balance between the work speaking for itself and the anticipation of question and answer. Knowing that the interview is waiting for us gives the reader a kind of nerdy, greedy attentiveness.

**Review 31**

Scratch Books is a house that makes the short story king. It is a celebration of creativity itself in all its mystery, viewed through the accessible lens of short form fiction. It's such an obviously good idea, that like all such things it makes you wonder why no one's done it before.