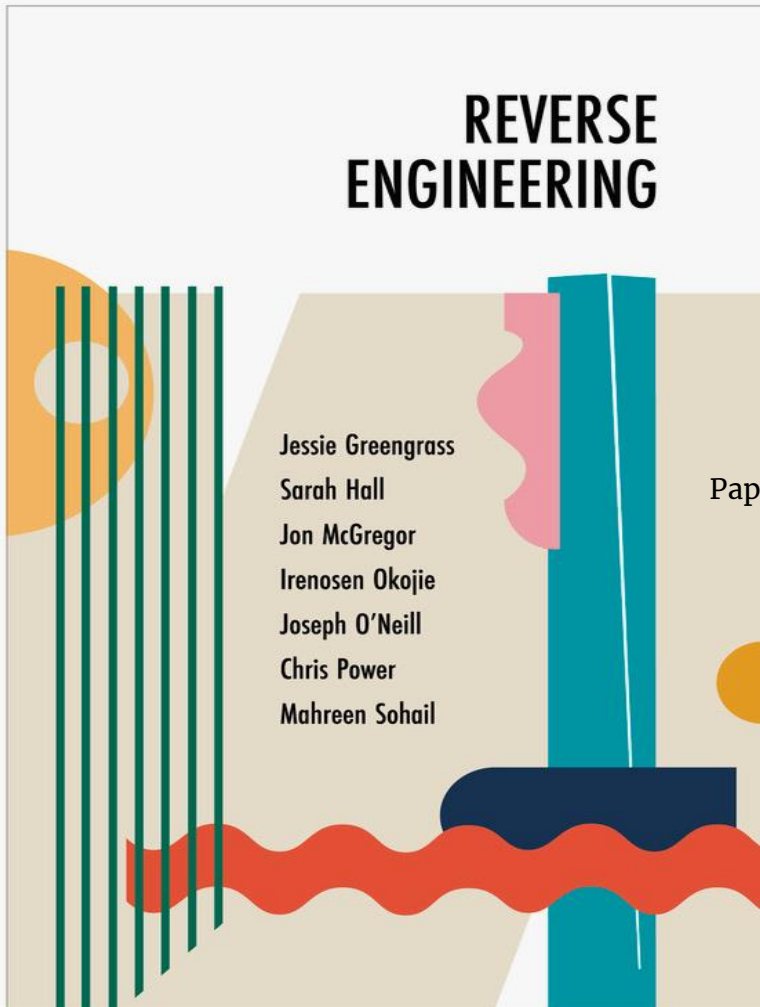


Reverse Engineering

Jessie Greengrass
Sarah Hall
Jon McGregor
Irenosen Okojie
Joseph O'Neill
Chris Power
Mahreen Sohail



Published by Scratch Books
17 March 2022

Paperback 978-1-7398301-0-6 £9.99
eBook 978-1-7398301-1-3 £4.99

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

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

An essential book for everyone interested in how fiction works...

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.’

Monica Ali, author of *Brick Lane* and *Love Marriage*

‘*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.’

Colin Barrett, author of *Young Skins* and *Homesickness*

‘Presenting an invaluable trove of stories and interviews, *Reverse Engineering* offers insights into not only writers' sparks of inspiration but also their stories' long fuses and more slow-burning processes. A delightful, rousing resource.’

Eley Williams, author of *Attrib. And Other Stories*

‘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 Guardian

‘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.’

Times Literary Supplement

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

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.

Exacting Clam



Includes the stories

'Mrs Fox' by Sarah Hall, the winner of the BBC National Short Story Award 2013.

'The Flier' by Joseph O'Neill, the recipient of the 2009 Pen/Faulkner Award.

'The First Punch' by Jon McGregor, the winner of the 2017 Costa Novel Prize.

'Filamo' by Irenosen Okojie, the winner of the 2020 Caine Prize for African writing and the 2016 Betty Trask Award.

'Theophrastus and The Dancing Plague', by Jessie Greengrass, the winner of the Edge Hill Short Story Prize 2016.

'The Crossing' by Chris Power, shortlisted for the Edge Hill Short Story Prize 2018.

'Hair' by Mahreen Sohail, who has had stories published in the Kenyon Review, the Pushcart Prize Anthology and Granta magazine.