



**6-Month Online Short Story Intensive
Starting the Story Collection**

October 27, 2021 – April 27, 2022
(no class March 23)

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 pm, Pacific Time

This class is for experienced writers who are dedicated to starting the first draft of a story collection over the course of 6 months. We will have 22 class meetings between October and April, with a four-week break in December to focus on generating and revising our work.

Participants should have experience writing stories and familiarity with the elements of literary short fiction including scene, character, conflict, place and revision. We will study individual stories by authors, read craft essays, and discuss several published collections and how the stories unite to form a book.

This class is specifically designed for writers who are comfortable in a workshop setting. We will be giving and receiving feedback on works in progress at each of our meetings. Students will be expected to workshop their stories four times throughout the intensive.

In addition to the specific goal of starting a collection, the intention of this class is to bring together a group of writers who are actively seeking accountability, community, and a deepening of dedication to their own work.

Class time will be spent on occasional freewrites, feedback critiques of the cohort's work, and discussion of craft elements by way of outside readings by writers like Carmen Maria Machado, Bryan Washington, Samantha Hunt, Kevin Barry, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, Lauren Groff, and many others.

Participants will be expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours a week on their writing practice, including two hours of class time, one to one and half hours reading and responding to classmates' work, an hour of reading, and at least four hours of your own writing.

There will be at least one reading during the intensive when writers will be expected to read their work in progress in front of an audience.

Class is limited to 10 writers

General outline:

October 27 – December 1: Learn Your Process

We will get to know our own process, figure out how we work best, set a schedule. Discussion of methods used to generate new material. Freewriting in and out of class. Shop talk about the central elements of fiction and learning how and when to turn the volume up or down on each one depending on what's best for a story.

December – January: Now Go Write

Four-week break to take what we've learned the first six weeks of class and write on our own. Come back in mid-January ready to discuss how individual writing time went.

January 5 – February 2: Integrate, Relearn & Revise

We'll take what we learned over the break about our writing process and revise how we work and move forward. How do we keep generating new work while also revising existing stories? What methods of revision are most successful for you?

February 9 - April 27: Layers of Revision

Discussion will focus on the many layers of the revision process, what to do when you hit a wall with a story, how to think about form and structure during the revision process, and how to figure out when the heck a story is done. Class time will be spent on methods for ordering a collection and locating the inherent theme in your work. Lastly, we'll talk about what to do with a collection once it's ready to send out.