

THE ART OF
Shorts

II

Leave an Impression

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This is (NOT) the end.

The ending might just be the most important part of your story! How your reader enjoyed the ending will most strongly affect whether they enjoyed the story, whether they would recommend the story to another reader, and whether they would want to read another of your stories. But don't despair! Most readers are open to a variety of endings.

Choose what you believe is best for your story!

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End on a High Note...or a Low One

Leave the reader with hope, an HEA or HFN ('happily ever after' or 'happy for now') or don't. Perhaps, things didn't end so well for your characters.

What's the lesson there?

What is the takeaway for your readers?

Takeaways

A well-written ending does not require
“and the moral of the story is...”

If you did your job well, readers will
understand the takeaway without you
spelling it out.

Types of endings (not exhaustive)

- Happily Ever After - Fairy Tales
- Happy for Now - MOST COMMON, RomComs, My Neighbor Totoro
- Alive to Fight Another Day - long series like Nancy Drew, Harry Potter 1-6
- New Life - The Giver, Caparina
- Old Life-New Normal - POPULAR, Spirited Away, Inside Out

Types of endings (not exhaustive)

- Remember the Fallen - final Hobbit movie
- Sacrifice for the Greater Good - Rogue One
- All is Lost - The Boy Who Cried Wolf
- Cliffhanger/Open to Interpretation/Hints at HEA - Porco Rosso
- Surprise Ending/Plot Twist - Frozen (Hans, what?! Why?!)

Surprise Endings

If done WELL, surprise endings can be fantastic. However, they can also turn off readers from future stories. Giving very subtle clues throughout the story will help readers better receive the surprise ending without giving it away. They can look back and go, “Okay. I didn’t see it coming, but that makes sense! Wow!”

Plot Twists

Be careful with plot twists. They can ruin a story if they're out-of-the-blue, insensitive, or cliché.

Lessons and Morals

Every story DOESN'T have to have a lesson or a moral. Sometimes, they are just for fun. However, if you want the reader to learn something specific, make sure it is clear by the final word.

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Speaking of Endings...

I had no idea how much I had to say about writing short fiction! And this isn't even everything! I hope you enjoyed it and found something helpful.

How did you enjoy this course? Let me know!

Is there anything else you're wondering about? Ask away!

Do I need to clarify anything? Happy to help!

Thanks so much for playing!

If you're interested in me creating another writing course, what topics would you be interested in? Let me know!