Microfiction
at the University of Essex
Automobile warranty expires. So does engine.

Stan Lee

Margaret Atwood
Epitaph: Foolish humans, never escaped Earth.

Vernor Vinge
It’s behind you! Hurry before it

Rockne S. O’Bannon
The baby’s blood type? Human, mostly.

Orson Scott Card
For sale. Baby shoes. Never used.

Ernest Hemingway
Upon awaking, the dinosaur was still there.

Augusto Monterroso
Rained, rained, rained, and never stopped.

Howard Waldrop
Don’t marry her. Buy a house.

Stephen R. Donaldson
K.I.A. Baghdad, Aged 18 – Closed Casket

Richard K. Morgan
Epitaph:
He shouldn’t have fed it.

Brian Herbert
He read his obituary with confusion.

Steven Meretzky
Lie detector eyeglasses perfected: civilization collapses.

Richard Powers
Please, this is everything, I swear.

Orson Scott Card
Bob’s last message:
Bermuda Triangle, baloney.

Elmore Leonard
Megan’s baby: John’s surname, Jim’s eyes.

Simon Armitage
Dorothy: “Fuck it, I’ll stay here.”

Steven Meretzky
Corpse parts missing. 
Doctor buys yacht. 

Margaret Atwood
Three to Iraq. One came back.

Graeme Gibson
Dinosaurs return.
Want their oil back.

David Burn
“Samaritans.” “I’m listening.”
“Hello?” “Hel...” “Samaritans...”

Michel Faber
“It can’t be. I’m a virgin.”

Kate Atkinson
Set sail, great storm, all lost.

John Banville
See that shadow? (It's not yours.)

Jim Crace
Dad called: DNA back: he isn’t.

Helen Fielding
“Kiss me.” “?” “Kiss me…” “?!!”
“Oh, sorry.”

Jon McGregor
Served the pie, watched him die.

Maggie O’Farrell
He didn’t. She did. Big mistake.

AL Kennedy
They awaited sunrise.  
It never came.  

AS Byatt
In the end, everything simply began.

Ali Smith
Stop me before I kill again.

Hari Kunzru
Free to good home.
Extraneous coffin.

Barbara Trapido
The pillow smelled like my brother.

Patrick Neate
“The Earth? We ate it yesterday.”

Yann Martel
Funeral followed honeymoon. He was 90.

Graham Swift

Blake Morrison
“Mind what gap?” ...

Hilary Mantel
Failed SAT. Lost scholarship. Invented rocket.

William Shatner
Computer, did we bring batteries? Computer?

Eileen Gunn
From torched skyscrapers, men grew wings.

Gregory Maguire
Gown removed carelessly. Head, less so.

Joss Whedon
Machine. Unexpectedly, I’d invented a time

Alan Moore
With bloody hands, I say good-bye.

Frank Miller
Wasted day. Wasted life. Dessert, please.

Steven Meretzky
I’m your future, child. Don’t cry.

Stephen Baxter
I’m dead. I’ve missed you. Kiss…?

Neil Gaiman
Kirby had never eaten toes before.

Kevin Smith
To save humankind he died again.

Ben Bova
“I couldn’t believe she’d shoot me.”

Howard Chaykin
Broken heart, 45, WLTM disabled man.

Mark Millar
TIME MACHINE REACHES FUTURE!!! … nobody there …

Harry Harrison
Tick tock tick tock tick tick.

Neal Stephenson
Easy. Just touch the match to

Ursula K. Le Guin
Nevertheless, he tried a third time.

James P. Blaylock
Thought I was right. I wasn’t.

Graeme Gibson
Mind of its own. Damn lawnmower.

David Brin
I saw, darling, but do lie.

Orson Scott Card
We crossed the border; they killed us.

Howard Waldrop
Finally, he had no more words.

Gregory Maguire
There were only six words left.

Gregory Maguire