

Fast fiction submissions 2022 – April!!

Theme – Glimmer

1/4/22 - hint

Struggling, I couldn't come up with the words. Then I saw him out of the corner of my eye, holding up three fingers – his hint saved my ass that day.

2/4/22 - pyrite

The room went quiet as we made our grand entrance.
Our matching gold bodysuits handmade for the fancy dress event - luminescent.
The host was doubled over laughing – 'Pirate... not pyrite!'

3/4/2022 - glow

As drop scones bubble on the buttery pan, two sets of hungry eyes reflect the glow of the gas burner. This recipe, I promise them, won't go to the grave.

4/4/2022 – fortune

Dollar signs sparkled in her eyes; a fortune secured safely in her cash register.
She gently placed the plastic coin together with the others and eagerly awaited the next customer.

5/4/2022 – idol

And the winner of this year's Australian backyard Idol is...

...magpie!

Thank-you to pigeon, crow and rainbow lorikeet for providing such fierce competition.

6/4/2022 – intermittent

Missed winters never,
Shivers rarely,
Adrenalin fleeting,
Sore knees infrequent,
Blue skies occasional,
Snowfalls intermittent,
Crowds steady,
Hot chocolate regularly,
Back country unbounded,
Love of skiing lifelong,
Climate change permanent.

7/4/2022 – bright

In the dusty red centre we held hands and gazed at the night sky. The moon and stars so bright I could see my daughters smile – one in a million.

8/4/2022 - moon

Ava looked down at her nails, the moon's exposed by years of cuticle mistreatment.
'Ready?' the practitioner queried gently.
Ava nodded and breathed deep, eager for hypnosis to begin.

9/4/2022 – perceived

Years ago, a Little Gem sat in a pot. Ignored and hopeless, with one lonely green leaf it was perceived dead.
Today, defiant giant flower's wink and say 'cheers.'

10/4/2022 – twinkle

The diamond ring twinkled around her black gloved finger.
Diamond heistress was not her usual job.
'Just taking back what's rightly mine,' she muttered sneaking from estranged sister's home.

11/4/2022 – sequin

Smooth then rough, a sequined cushion colour changes under a small shaking hand – flicking backward and forward. The impending meltdown soothed by her neurodivergent sensory seeking.
She calms.
I exhale.

12/4/2022 – shimmer

The shimmer of moonlight across fresh snow so bright it looked like day. A sneaky late-night schuss through the village - opportunistic. The broken leg however, was regrettable.

13/4/2022 – altar

She sat on a chair at her version of an altar, compelled to sacrifice everything she had, completely unaware the house always wins.

14/4/2022 – horizon

A giraffe stares out towards the horizon. 'Shall we see what's over the edge?'
'Nah... don't wanna fall off,' his mate says.
The giraffe walks anyway.
He falls off.

15/4/2022 – subdued

Her childhood subjugation was hidden deep in her subconscious.
Compelled to a life of service.
Always subdued.
You are enough she heard one day.
So began a road to freedom.

16/4/2022 – oasis

She packed her bags, his infidelity too much to bear.
'Don't look back in anger,' he pleaded.
'I am not your oasis,' she said, before closing the door behind her.

17/4/2022 – dappled

D. Apple and Co run a spot changing boutique for leopards.
'It's magic,' one customer remarks.
This season's dapple in gold has proven popular.
The lions were not so sure.

18/4/2022 – faint

We gathered around Mum - hope fading.
The leukemia was taking over her body, controlling her will to eat, get up and continue on.
Feeling faint, she said her final goodbye.

19/4/2022 – blink

Ava sat frozen with the engine running.
The sun rising, the kids sleeping.
The T-intersection foreboding – blinker flashing.
A hopeful right turn towards a new future.
Headlights approach. Not today.

20/4/2022 – waver

'Not another power outage', Jillian bemoaned.
She lit a candle and the light gently wavered, illuminating the solid wood table.
A letter caught her eye, 'Ooh, the bill...' She exhaled.

21/4/2022 – gold

Gold hoop earrings, a burglar's favourite treasure.
Each time easily replaced.
Charles and Dianna fifty cent pieces saved for forty years.
Just one dollar to the burglar – priceless to me.

22/4/2022 – scintillate

‘Ooh...,’ Aisha said, seemingly absorbed by Sadie’s info dump.
Aisha reciprocated - Sadie mirrored the oohs.
Scintillating conversation wasn’t a strength of either neurodivergent girl – but that never mattered.

23/4/2022 – hope

Huddled in a hut on the peak of Bogong - Fred’s marriage proposal was inaudible over the wind.
He remained hopeful.
Alice, undeterred, accepted her man’s proposal – no words required.

24/4/2022 – inkling

He - a vegetarian poet passing through.
She – a woman of the land.
An accidental meeting, an inkling of a spark, leading to a kiss lingering long after saying goodbye.

25/4/2022 – sparkle

The sun shines across ice crystals. Spring snow melt dripping.
Post hike, Jade’s heart warm, her smile involuntary.
The alpine lake sparkling, inviting. Jade jumps in for an icy hug.

26/4/2022 – neon

Two neon luminosities bounced alongside the overnight train.
‘It’s nothing,’ Mum said.
Her loss, I thought...
Gleefully, I watched the Min Min lights perform their desert dance – just for me.

27/4/2022 – soft

A soft afternoon breeze tickles the linen curtains, a perfect moment for peace, but the silence is deafening. I play Norwegian death metal to rid the silence of its terror.

28/4/2022 - flash

Memories of Jim flashed in Cate’s mind so vividly she could feel his warmth even thirty years later. The relationship never would have worked, but she felt blessed nonetheless.

29/4/2022 – eye

Her eyes were pleading.
The bully's had done their worst, school now untenable.
I hide my fear, embracing her.
The learning here?
We all belong somewhere - that's the journey.

30/4/2022 – glimmer

Alone, Rachel stands under the waterfall; a solitary steady stream sent from high above. The spray sends a glimmering rainbow throughout the Paradise cave.
No one will find her here.