

# The Template Guide

---

North Pass Press

2026

## **The Template Guide**

Copyright © 2026 by North Pass Press

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations used in reviews.

Template design and typography by North Pass Press ([northpass.press](http://northpass.press)).

# User Guide & Documentation

---

WELCOME TO THE MODERN SHORT STORY template by North Pass Press. This document serves as both your user manual and a live demonstration of the template's capabilities.

This template is designed to strip away the complex apparatus of a full-length novel in favor of a clean, editorial-grade layout specifically tailored for short stories and literary fiction.

## Getting Started in Typst.app

If you are using the Typst web application, setting up your project is a quick process:

1. **Create Project.** Go to `typst.app` and create a new empty project.
2. **Upload Files.** Upload all three files from this template (`main.typ`, `story.typ`, and `template.typ`) into your project.
3. **Clean Up.** Typst auto-generates a blank `main.typ` file. Right-click it and Delete it.
4. **Set Main File.** Hover over `main.typ` in the left sidebar and click the Eye icon (Set as main). This is critical; the formatting only renders correctly if `main.typ` is set as the main file.
5. **Configure.** Open `main.typ` to set your story's title and author.
6. **Write.** Open `story.typ`, replace the placeholder text, and begin writing.

\* \* \*

## Core Features & Shorthand

The power of this template lies in its “invisible” automation. We have built-in several shorthand triggers to help you maintain your creative flow without hunting for formatting menus.

### Titles & Paragraphs

Use the equals sign followed by a space (=) to create your story title. It will be perfectly centered and spaced automatically. Note that Typst requires a **single empty line** between paragraphs to apply the correct indenting and vertical rhythm.

### Intelligent Scene Breaks

To create a professional scene break, simply type three plus signs (

\* \* \*

) on their own line. The template will automatically convert this into the centered ornament you see above.

### Automatic Em-Dashes

Stop hunting for special characters. Simply type three hyphens back-to-back (- - -) and the template will instantly convert them into a continuous, professional em-dash.

### Smallcaps

Wrap your text in pipes (for example: |LIKE THIS|) to effortlessly render beautiful smallcaps. This is the standard literary way to open a story or denote a significant transition.

### Smart Poetry & Epigraphs

For poems or epigraphs, use the #q() function. It automatically centers and formats your verse, perfect for poetry or epigraphs.

*Poetry and epigraphs are simple.*

*This verse block is automatically centered.*

### Automated Headers & Page Numbers

You don't need to worry about the layout of your pages. The template automatically generates professional running headers (showing your title and author name) and perfectly aligns page numbers on every page. These are automatically hidden on the story's opening page to keep the layout clean and focused.

## File Structure

- **main.typ**: Your control center for title, author, and paper size.
- **story.typ**: Your blank canvas where you do your actual writing.
- **template.typ**: The backend engine. You do not need to touch or edit this file.

HAPPY WRITING!