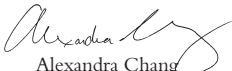


Alberto Manguel
*Interview by Jennifer Levasseur
and Kevin Rabalais*

As a child, I started reading, as we all do, believing the truth of the story—not necessarily believing that Little Red Riding Hood existed, but believing that this happens, that the story is telling something that is true.


Alexandra Chang
Tomb Sweeping Day

I watched him glide into the sea, first to his ankles, then to his thighs. He stood still in one spot for some time—seconds or minutes, I'm not sure—and then began to sway gently from left to right.


Katherine Hubbard
Hamlet

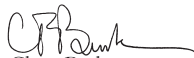
In those days I was particularly contemptuous of Long Island and New Jersey—bridge and tunnelers, we called them.


Madiha Sattar
Mulberry Street

This is not the way we do it at home. At home we know our neighbors' names, and the names of their children and grandchildren and in-laws, and we don't need to read notices to learn that they have died.


Colin Fleming
Last Light Out

That root doesn't run as deep, a root is a root is a root, and you'll take a root in this life when you can get a root.


Chase Burke
That's That

Nobody knows what to do about the grenade.
Me and Smith and Barkley are alone in the office on a Saturday when it rolls in. *Plink* then *thunk* then a whisper across the old carpet. It comes to a rest under Barkley's desk.

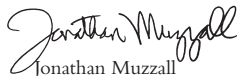


**GLIMMER
TRAIN**
Press, Inc.

*"In two straight lines they broke their bread
and brushed their teeth and went to bed."
Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans, 1939*


Valerie Trueblood
Crisco

When they were seniors the hero of the basketball team was her boyfriend, something everybody in the county knew, even grade school kids.


Jonathan Muzzall
Killer and Crud Get Married

Killer said, "I want to thank you again for accepting my apology without any fuss."


Taylor Koekoek
Thrill-Ville U.S.A.

Joanie's hair was so black that right when I met her, I decided that everyone I'd ever thought of as having black hair really had dark brown hair.



Ben Stroud
Anselmo

The one agreed-upon certainty among the thousands trapped inside Rome's walls was that whatever calamity was coming would soon come. Today, tomorrow—that soon.

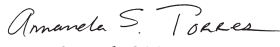

Jad Josey
The Whole Sky Fell

"I don't see anything," the dark-haired girl whispered.

"I see everything," said the other one.


Jamel Brinkley
Everything the Mouth Eats

In spite of this, I had decided that the true purpose of eighth grade, my last year at the school, was to figure out girls.


Amanda S. Torres
Fortuna

It was like we were counting down to something without knowing when it would occur, and with no time with which to count down.