

David Ebenbach
All of This Is Water

"You're all quite welcome." She stepped back from the door and sort of bowed us in. It was the first time in my life that knowing a Finnish person had made me a VIP.



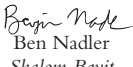
Scott Gloden
The Birds of Basra

"Online! You can go online and find exactly where you're from. That's how I learned I was Mexican," she said.



Laura Roque
Lady-Ghost Roles

I was always relaxed by Delkis's house, ongoing fights or not, with its distant rumble of laundry, like a whale constantly clearing its throat below us.



Ben Nadler
Shalom Bayit

I used to get a lot of drinking done while she wrote reports. Now, there was nothing to do but go to sleep.



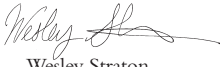
R. Cross
Glioblastoma

"You're totally fucked."
"As in dying?"
"As in that, yes."



Clark Knowles
In Dublin

It was terribly quiet, impossibly so for such a big city, with so much unfolding everywhere, with so many intersecting lives.



Wesley Straton
Earthquake Whiskey

When he tells these stories, they could be from someone else's life: in New Zealand he is quiet, and he expects the country to be quiet in return. Generally, it obliges.



**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*



Abhijith Ravinutala
A Pothole for Sailaja

Sailaja did not admit to being a particularly religious person, as she took pride in her computer engineering degree and equated it with a necessary suspension of superstitious beliefs.



Katrin Gibb
A History of Regressing

Our move from Chicago to a newly developed suburb in Kentucky meant little to me at that age, but my brother was going into high school that fall and responded by throwing his fork across the room.



Peter Sheehy

Things Frozen Then

We'll meet dogs, we'll meet neighborhood people. The flowers will begin to bloom. I will remember these walks until I am as old as he is and maybe longer.



David McDannald
Stealing Chickens

I don't know why he said such things. You have a principle of being honest and then there's the hard reality of your mother having a heart attack.



Kent Wascom

*Interview by Jennifer Levasseur
and Kevin Rabalais*

I like having the prompt of history. History can give you a narrative shape, and finding the shape of a story is the most difficult thing for me.



Michael Caleb Tasker
All Gone Now

By early afternoon the heat was crushing. When I was younger it used to rain every afternoon.