SHORT STORY AWARD FOR NEW WRITERS

1st Place

Courtney Knowlton receives $2,500 for "Mean Blonde Ponytail Girl."

I hoped that I could one day do something so generous for my children, but there was a good chance that we'd never be able to. We were teachers and I was a spender.

Courtney Knowlton was raised in Montclair, New Jersey. She graduated from Amherst College with a degree in English and Spanish and currently works as a teacher and administrator at The East Harlem School, a private middle school for low-income families. She lives in New York City with her husband and two young sons. "Mean Blonde Ponytail Girl" will be her first published fiction.

2nd Place

Alexandra Chang receives $500 for "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.

Alexandra Chang is a fiction MFA candidate at Syracuse University. Previously, she worked as a journalist. Her nonfiction has been published in *Wired*, *The Atlantic*, *Popular Mechanics*, and elsewhere. "Tomb Sweeping Day" will be her first fiction in print. She is currently working on a novel and a story collection.

3rd Place

M. Torres receives $300 for "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.

M. Torres received her MFA in fiction from Colorado State University. A defunct Christian theme park is the backdrop of her novel-in-progress. She grew up in Connecticut, but calls the Rocky Mountains home now. "Fortuna" will be her first publication.