



## VERY SHORT FICTION AWARD WINNERS

### 1ST PLACE

Chase Burke receives \$2,000 for “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.*

Chase Burke is an MFA candidate at the University of Alabama’s Program in Creative Writing, but he calls Florida home. His work can be found in *Electric Literature*, *The Offing*, *Quarterly West*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Sycamore Review*, and *Yemassee*, among other journals. Previous work was the runner-up in the *Sycamore Review*’s Wabash Prize for Fiction and a finalist in *American Short Fiction*’s Short Story Contest. You can find him on Twitter @cpburkejr. “That’s That” will be his first major print publication.

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### 2ND PLACE

Brian Yansky receives \$500 for “The Curse.”

*The elevator stops. The tall man has to duck down to get out. The doors slide shut and I’m alone with the fact that my daughter has put a curse on me.*

Brian Yansky has an MFA in Writing from Vermont College. His stories have appeared in *Literal Latte*, *The Crescent Review*, and other magazines. He’s also published five young adult novels, two honored with awards from The Texas Institute of Letters. He teaches writing at Austin Community College and lives in Austin, Texas.

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### 3RD PLACE

Ajit Dhillon receives \$300 for “Waiting.”

*As we searched, I wanted to tell you something, but for the life of me, I couldn’t remember what. I think it was a joke tinged with profundity—you know how I like those, something to set our minds at ease.*

Ajit Dhillon teaches high school English in Singapore, where he lives with his wife and fellow writer, Marie-Claire. He earned his MFA from The University of South Carolina. By the end of the year, he plans on completing a novel set in New York in the days leading up to the financial collapse. This will be his first major print publication. Find him on Twitter @Ajit\_Dhillon.