

Kim M. Bl

Kimberly Bunker
Number 41

That place is infinity, the same infinity that requires all this living and dying and living.

Barbara Ganley

Barbara Ganley
Language Lessons

There are no life preservers to throw,
no lifeboats to launch, no maps to
draw, no words to offer.

Greg Schreur

Greg Schreur
Third World Kroger

Between here and there is Birch Field,
which we think of as a mental hospital,
which it is, but it's more than that.

Natasha Weiss

Natasha Tamate Weiss
What It Means to Rush

I was a born listener and was always
listening, listening and nodding, even
when I didn't understand; I nodded
myself into understanding.

Kurt Rheinheimer

Kurt Rheinheimer
The Cabin

Who knew if it was in my mother's head
all the time in the car and it couldn't really
come out until they were in the kitchen in
Blueston, or whether the whole idea really
did just come to be thought about then.

Ming Holden

Ming Holden
Keller's Ranch

The whole of Santa Barbara County is a pile
of matchsticks. I forgot the heaviness of July.

Sommer Schafer

Sommer Schafer
The Final Sermon

He'd always thought he just didn't
know how to handle money, but
recently it had become clear to him
that he'd just never had enough of it.

David Ebenbach

David Ebenbach
If She Doesn't Answer

The daughter reaches back to grip
the bannister so that she won't fall.



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

Ben Perry
Benjamin Perry

Interview by Andrew Scott
A short story is a stylistically
vigorous glimpse of a life.

Marko Gregur

Marko Gregur
Drinkoply

My intelligence is above the
average. Sitting at this table,
that's more than obvious.

Mark Hitz

Mark Hitz
Shadehill

She hated the place. Hated the
wind, the dust, the bad water
pressure, but believed, correctly, that
as long as it was standing and put-
together, we would converge.

Samsun Knight

Samsun Knight
Family of Four

David knows that his family is insane
the way one knows the nature of most
things within a dream.

George Saunders

George Saunders

Interview by David Naimon

My idea is that life is so strange and so
unknowable and so beautiful that you might
have to resort to extraordinary means to
really get some of that on the page.

Hugh Burkhat

Hugh Burkhat
Dumb Down

I was envious of Pigeon's ability to get
so immersed in what he was learning,
to be so ecstatic and opinionated.

Gillian Burnes

Gillian Burnes
Transit

So which was right: the misery in his
head or the expression on his face?
Maybe both. Huh. You can think with
your face or think with your brain,
and one's as right as the other.