

Philip Tate
Philip Tate

Reading Hemingway

"Maybe it will last," she said.
"We should make it last."

Courtney Sender
Courtney Sender

Even Angels Are Astonished

Lydia is on the phone, crying, which doesn't concern Ari; Lydia is a crier like him, unlike her mother. There's a strength in the ability to cry, he believes and has taught her.

Bob Shacochis
Bob Shacochis

Interview by Kevin Rabalais

A lot of us had been arrested in anti-war demonstrations at our schools. Then those kids all got summer intern jobs at the C.I.A.

Judy Doenges
Judy Doenges

Promised Land

There was neither meadow nor glen, but there was a huge lawn and a cluster of ranch houses, a lot of exhausted wealthy people from the local towns of St. Charles and Geneva, and me.

Jon Chopan
Jon Chopan

Slaughter

That was the year it snowed in Baghdad and people thought it was a sign of peace.

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum
Sarah Shun-lien Bynum

The Bears

All of my senses opened in recognition. The mixed scent of newsprint and butter, the muted ticking of the modern cuckoo clock on the wall, the enamel tea kettle gleaming atop the immense stove, the marmalade still sharp in my mouth: home.

Daniel Torday
Daniel Torday

A Dispatch from Mt. Moriah

My parents weren't the anachronisms that the Sonnensteins were, but they were products of the fifties: men went to work and women worked out the socializing.

J.P. Lacrampe
J.P. Lacrampe

Caretaking

In his chair Jorma sleeps, his eyelids fluttering, and I wonder why his accident didn't hold our family together, like they sometimes do in movies.

Caitlin Horrocks
Caitlin Horrocks

Norwegian for Troll

After stopping to eat Coney dogs at a place recommended on the internet, they ate more at the Coney shop next door, both founded by immigrant Greek brothers with rival hot dog dynasties.

Peter Sipe
Peter Sipe

Civil Affairs

Rwandan soldiers, noted for their relative discipline and skill, were everywhere. Kigali was, for an African city, a pretty orderly place.

Michael Conforti
Michael Conforti

Tunnels

I learned pretty young they always chased the guy who ran, so I did what I could to avoid being that guy.

Sean Bernard
Sean Bernard

Museum of Me

Mid-life crisis is my dad's dumb theory. I think she's mad, mad that I'm my own woman, mad that boys like me, mad that I don't give her attention the way I used to.

Lee Montgomery
Lee Montgomery

Window

Spring was sneaky that year Angela ran away.

David H. Lynn
David H. Lynn

Divergence

For months he'd been predicting that promotion would alter nothing, that he wouldn't feel in any way transformed once it had been granted.

Mojie Crigler
Mojie Crigler

Completely Everything Completely Burned

Holes in the ground, and double-holes, where the trees—roots, trunk, bark, branches, leaves, rings, sap, snake nests, unhatched bird eggs—completely burned away.

Analisa Raya Flores
Analisa Raya Flores

The Boys Like Bones

The thing about anaphylaxis is it isn't just physiological. The allergy attacks your logic, your sense of reality. My favorite on the list of symptoms is a "sense of impending doom."



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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*