



Michael Varga

Chad Erupts in Strife

Chad was now part of the family narrative, and there was no telling how the story would end.



Claire Luchette

Full

In New York, he shows you the Angel of Bethesda in Central Park, and, with gusto and exaggerated sibilance, he recites the final monologue in *Angels in America*. "The world only spins forward, we will be citizens. The time has come."



John Thornton Williams

*Darling, Keith, the Subway Girl,
and Jumping Joe Henry*

Darling kept his head down. Probably none of those girls had been in that fraternity basement last night, where he'd fought another homeless man for a fifth of liquor, but he didn't want to take the chance.



Jonathan Lethem

Interview by David Naimon

These things are always fragile. We pass through them. Neighborhoods, families, movements. And we are struck by them. They seem to be a vision of a world that we want to stay inside but it can't sustain.



Aaron Guest

The Hecklers

"If only life was being recorded," he said at Elliot's one night before the AA meeting. "Then you'd know when the blitz was coming. I mean, you could at least know, from previous plays, that the blitz was coming."



S.A. Rivkin

How to Survive a Non-Funeral

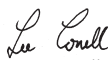
It was an all-family affair, and I couldn't understand why I was even permitted. I couldn't think of a single thing to say to the dying man.



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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



Lee Conell

The Afterlife of Turtles

On good days we talk about science fiction and soup. On bad days we talk about turtle heaven and hell.



Micah Nathan

In Search of Absolutely Nothing

"I thought Mayans invented the zero," Tosh said. "How can anyone invent the zero?" Katherine asked.



Emily McKay

Affording to Lose

I caught myself wide awake and thinking, "I feel *fucking amazing*," and then realized, "No, Caroline. That sentiment does not apply."



Vera Kurian

The Bleeding Room

They start to argue, as usual, and I've gotten so used to them that I almost find it easier to concentrate, with all the noise.



Tamar Jacobs

The Wall Between

Her mother thought fish was a life-extending food (unlike red meat, a life-diminishing one), and so they ate it whenever there was money.



Aja Gabel

Necessary Animals

The trees are so close together in those woods that they look like tall old men leaning together, alive, whispering.



Andrew Roe

A Matter of Twenty-Four Hours

The right person would make all the difference. The right person would save him. And much time and effort and energy had been wasted over the years because of this belief.