

Clare Thompson-Ostrander

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The Manual for Waitresses Everywhere
I can tell you what I know. Loving a
line cook is like bumping into a wall.
It happens fast and always leaves a mark.



Spencer Hyde
Light as Wings

I wonder if you've thought much about
your own heart? You ever seen a heart
beat out of a body? Adrian has videos.



Lauren Green
When We Hear Yellow

I'd never tell this to Lucas either, but it's
always seemed to me all partings would be
accompanied by that horrible crackling noise,
if we were living in an honest world.



Adam O'Fallon Price
Hoboken

There you were then, here you are
now. It feels like a backwater reality,
a wide place in the cosmic road.



Matthew Iribarne
We Are Heaven

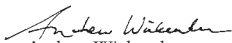
Even from his deathbed he'd asked
Roger to please take care of the lawn.
"Nitrogen in the spring," he'd told him.



David James Poissant
Tornado

Ma squeezes his hand and he squeezes back
hard, and Ma says, "I know I said I didn't
want to know, but now I want to know."

She doesn't say, *Just in case.*



Andrew Wickenden
Blasphemers and Baby Thieves

"I shouldn't have done that," Bloom said.
"Just because Rich is an idiot and Tom Dell
is an idiot and Grady is an idiot, it doesn't
mean I need to get myself kicked out of
school for being a fucking idiot, too."



A. Campbell
On Fleck/Fleck On

In the future, doctors wear blue, not
white. Sometime, somewhere, some-
when along the way they reinvented
themselves, and they did it in blue.



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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



Karen Malley
Jumping Doctor He Come in Future
"See, you just had a concussion. That's why you're
saying things and not making a whole lotta sense."
"The things I'm saying make sense to me."
"That's part of it."



Francisco Delgado
International Politics

The only solace I anticipate is the clear
presentation of that morning in my child's
history textbooks. That moment when all of our
lives simultaneously synched up and fragmented.
"On the morning of...", the books will say.



Andrew Robinson
Greater Love

Being English, we still can't really do
corporate hyperbole, but at least we've
learned how to keep our faces straight.



Karen Russell
Interview by David Naimon

Also I don't know what is up with my
family, but everybody kind of wanders
the night. Every time it's a holiday, at four
a.m. it's like ships passing in the kitchen,
everyone making their insane peregrination.



Jan Schummel
In a Small but Not Too Small City

She said, My number? Everyone was
watching us now. Nothing captures the
attention like new romance, or a car accident.



Wendy Rasmussen
Mesopotamian Nights

Between them all, the kidneys, the
tooth, he can't drink hot or cold
liquids, coffee or alcohol, can't eat
anything crunchy or acidic. Tomatoes
are like bombs in his system.



Weike Wang
Pepper

It was not my intention to get
a black dog or a big dog. I had
initially wanted a small dog of a
lighter coat—specifically, I had
wanted an apricot cocker spaniel.