

Clare Thompson-Ostrander

Clare Thompson-Ostrander  
*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.