

Contents

Editorial	xi
Hice <i>Derek Alsop</i>	1
A Bump in the Road <i>Lucy McDougall</i>	3
Empty <i>Michael Buckingham Gray</i>	5
Disconnect <i>David Steward</i>	6
Progression <i>David Steward</i>	8
Anomaly <i>Marie Gethins</i>	9
The Magician's Lover <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	10
Stuntman in Still Life <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	11
Late-Blooming Gigolo (In Triptych) <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	12
Dragonfly in Lieu of a Chopper <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	13
Lock Keeper <i>Ian Seed</i>	14

Criteria <i>Ian Seed</i>	15
Housing Crises Are for Losers <i>Kevin Tosca</i>	16
Procedure <i>Christopher Linforth</i>	18
Karla and Karen <i>Carrie Etter</i>	19
Mamá <i>Imanni Mia Grullón</i>	21
An Insatiable Hunger <i>Imanni Mia Grullón</i>	22
Bruin <i>Stephen Leach</i>	23
The Squealing of the Pigs Meant Food on the Table <i>Cath Barton</i>	25
The Big Fang-Dong Buffet <i>Joanna Galbraith</i>	27
Chef's Discretion <i>Shelli Cornelison</i>	29
Life Is Like a Bowl of Soup <i>Shelley Kirton</i>	30
The New Beginning's Time <i>Shelley Kirton</i>	32
In the Landscape <i>Tomaż Schalk van der Merwe</i>	33

Wickerfish <i>Paul Kavanagh</i>	35
Fish Eyes <i>Debeshi Gooptu</i>	36
The Day the Whale Washed Up on the Beach <i>Phoebe Brueckner</i>	37
Pugs Not Drugs <i>Neil Campbell</i>	38
Sisters <i>Tom Jenks</i>	39
Gulls <i>Tom Jenks</i>	40
Specifics <i>Tom Jenks</i>	41
Novel of Ideas <i>Peter Cherches</i>	42
Fifty Ways to Leave Your Liver <i>Peter Cherches</i>	43
Backwards Man <i>Peter Cherches</i>	44
Blood <i>Justin Herrmann</i>	45
Philosophical Psychopath <i>Akeem Balogun</i>	47
Memento Mori <i>Rob McInroy</i>	48

Loss <i>Payge White</i>	50
Four Days and Seventeen Hours After <i>Danielle Burnette</i>	51
Sunup <i>Eoin Connolly</i>	52
Fingerprint <i>Clodagh O'Brien</i>	53
Weekend Away <i>Tom Bailey</i>	54
Promises <i>Robert Bruce</i>	55
Sunrise at the Water Tower <i>Helena O'Connor</i>	56
There's Only One Photo I Remember from Our Wedding <i>Hannah Storm</i>	57
Klingons Have Feelings Too <i>Jane Andrews</i>	59
No Time for Delicates <i>Carrie Lynn Hawthorne</i>	61
Zoo Time <i>Saskia McCracken</i>	62
Sugar and Spice and All Things Nice <i>Jan Kaneen</i>	64
The Plate <i>Jan Kaneen</i>	65

Intrusive <i>Jan Kaneen</i>	66
Mad Woman <i>Mona Aman</i>	68
What I Remember About My First Job, Working at Sonny's Pit BBQ <i>Steve Cushman</i>	70
The Three-Man Lift <i>Bjorn Ephgrave</i>	71
True Story <i>Liz Milne</i>	73
Ratbagger <i>Gareth Durasow</i>	74
The Valve <i>Gareth Durasow</i>	75
What Lies Beneath <i>Izabela Ilomska</i>	76
Nani <i>Robert Libbey</i>	77
Fatal Mistake <i>Kester Low</i>	78
Three Butterflies Basking in the Midday Sun <i>Marcelo Medone</i>	79
Gift <i>Lavinia Andrei Jennings</i>	81

Getting Historical <i>Cathy Meadows</i>	82
Mrs D’Ath <i>Max Scratchmann</i>	84
The Back Door <i>Sophie Brinkworth</i>	85
<i>Flash Reviews</i>	
Meg Pokrass, <i>The Dog Seated Next to Me</i> • Reviewer: <i>Liz Milne</i>	89
F. J. Morris, <i>This Is (Not About) David Bowie</i> • Reviewer: <i>Brian Baker</i>	91
Nod Ghosh, <i>The Crazyed Wind</i> • Reviewer: <i>Santino Prinzi</i>	93
Michael Loveday, <i>Three Men on the Edge</i> • Reviewer: <i>Christine Simon</i>	95
Michelle Elvy, Frankie McMillan, and James Norcliffe (eds), <i>Bonsai</i> • Reviewer: <i>Peter Blair</i>	97
Fred D. White, <i>Writing Flash</i> • Reviewer: <i>Ashley Chantler</i>	99

Editorial

Welcome to the twenty-second issue of *Flash*, a bumper catch-up compendium of sixty-five new stories from fifteen countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, the UK, and the USA. We are pleased to feature some stellar serial contributors and many fresh voices, including Lucy McDougall whose ‘A Bump in the Road’ is a past winner of the UK’s National Flash Fiction Youth Competition.

In this issue’s ‘*Flash Reviews*’, we survey a range of books: two single-author collections, two novellas-in-flash, a multi-author anthology, and a craft guide. Liz Milne considers quirky compaction in Meg Pokrass’s *The Dog Seated Next to Me*, while Brian Baker contemplates the influence of a pop-culture icon in F. J. Morris’s *This Is (Not About) David Bowie*. Novellas-in-flash are enjoyed by Santino Prinzi, who appraises Nod Ghosh’s *The Crazy Wind*, and Christine Simon, who assesses Michael Loveday’s *Three Men on the Edge*. Peter Blair is captivated by a wide-ranging selection of bijou tales, *Bonsai: Best Small Stories from Aotearoa New Zealand*, edited by Michelle Elvy, Frankie McMillan, and James Norcliffe. Ashley Chantler finds Fred D. White’s *Writing Flash: How to Craft and Publish Flash Fiction for a Booming Market* idiosyncratic but worth every cent.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of our colleague Professor Derek Alsop: Head of English, Restoration and eighteenth-century literature specialist, Beckett scholar, enthusiastic supporter of *Flash*, and a man of big heart and lively humour. It opens with the posthumous, first publication of his story ‘Hice’.

Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler