

Editorial

Welcome to the sixth issue of *Flash*. This issue features new flashes from Britain, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, and the USA, amongst them stories set in Paris, Florence, and Constantinople (now Istanbul). We are especially pleased to include new pieces by Randall Brown, prolific writer and promoter of flash fiction; by William Wall, whose fourth novel, *This is the Country*, was longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2005; and by Alan Beard, whose second collection of short stories, *You Don't Have to Say*, appeared in 2010. Also featured are two flashes extracted from *Paperboy*, Bob Thurber's 'Dysfunctional' and wonderful novel, published earlier this year. And we are honoured to reprint Ian Rankin's 'Fieldwork' from *Ox-Tales*, a four-volume short-story collection sold in aid of Oxfam.

'*Flash Presents*' features stories in translation by two critically acclaimed, prize-winning, and influential writers: Israel's Etgar Keret and Argentina's Ana María Shua. Keret's 'Malfunction' and 'Asthma Attack' are taken from compellingly jocoserious collections *The Nimrod Flip-Out* (2004) and *The Girl on the Fridge* (2008), while Shua's mesmerizing *Microfictions* (2009) is represented by 'Night Sounds' and 'Crime'. *Flash's* first translated story appeared in our last issue, and we hope to publish more.

In '*Flash Reviews*', Brian Baker explores the rich territory charted by a major new anthology, *Sudden Fiction Latino*, Robert Graham is not impressed by *The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis*, Paul McDonald enjoys *Color Plates* by Adam Golaski, and Holly Howitt finds much to admire in Mary Hamilton's *We Know What We Are*. Each review is accompanied by a sample story. Golaski's and Hamilton's books come from Rose Metal Press, founded in 2006 and now a leading independent publisher of flash fiction. Other Rose Metal Press publications are reviewed in *Flash* 3.1 and 3.2.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler

Contents

Editorial

Like So Many Things in That Childhood *Randall Brown*

Fieldwork *Ian Rankin*

I Liked Her *Alan Beard*

A Mistake *William Wall*

The Grave *William Wall*

Betty Blue Eyes *Bob Thurber*

Unbreakable *Bob Thurber*

Should Have *Geoff Gardner*

Our Father Was Famous for Keeping the House Cold
Luke Whisnant

Plugs *Rupan Malakin*

Running the Yards *David Swann*

The Good Times *David Swann*

Spoons Against Rommel *David Swann*

Tobacco Siesta *Dean Marshall Tuck*

Hungry Horse *Katerina Prudchenko*

Existential *J. J. Steinfeld*

One Last Look *Nigel Jarrett*

Column 336 *Martin Sorrell*

Historical *David Mohan*

The Requiymaments *Jonathan Cardew*

The Writing Man *Jonathan Cardew*

The Director *J. I. Wells*

Saffron Earth *Sara P. Dias*

Which Way the Wind *Sara P. Dias*

Bet *Paul Kavanagh*

Salt *Calum Kerr*

Petals *Calum Kerr*

Therapeutic Massage *Ian Seed*

Alchemy *Lesley Mace*

Call of Duty *Tony Williams*

Lengths *Tony Williams*

Not Today *Die Booth*

Family *Paul Blaney*

Touch *Robert Wallace*

What You Don't Know *Timothy Reilly*

Bait *Sarah Hilary*

Just the Dog and Me *Katey Schultz*

Object, Montparnasse *Dan Spencer*

Surrealism and Beyond (Room 2) *Rebecca Reynolds*

Michael Landy, *Break Down* (2001) *Jessica Thompson*

Flash Presents

Etgar Keret

- ‘Malfunction’
- ‘Asthma Attack’

Ana María Shua

- ‘Night Sounds’
- ‘Crime’

Flash Reviews

Robert Shapard, James Thomas, and Ray Gonzalez (eds), *Sudden Fiction Latino*

- Reviewer: *Brian Baker*
- Sample story: ‘What Should Run in the Mind of Cabelleros’ *Lupe Méndez*

Lydia Davis, *The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis*

- Reviewer: *Robert Graham*
- Sample story: ‘Good Times’

Adam Golaski, *Color Plates*

- Reviewer: *Paul McDonald*
- Sample story: ‘Luncheon on the Grass’

Mary Hamilton, *We Know What We Are*

- Reviewer: *Holly Howitt*
- Sample story: ‘Never Ever’

Advertisements

***Flash* Subscriptions and Submissions**