

## Editorial

Welcome to the seventh issue of *Flash*. This issue features new flashes from Argentina, Britain, Canada, Ireland, Nigeria, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and the USA. We are especially pleased to open with Jennifer Egan's 'To Do'. As Egan explains in her Author's Note, 'To Do' was the 'genesis' for a character in *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. We are also delighted to include translations of four stories from Argentinian Raúl Brasca's *Todo tiempo futuro fue peor* [All the time the future was worst] (2007).

'Flash Presents' boasts another Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Robert Olen Butler, whose 240-word stories 'Earl Daggett' and 'Maisie Hobbs' are culled from the brilliant *Severance* (2006). The editors also greatly admire Liesl Jobson's *100 Papers* (2008; reviewed in *Flash*, 2.2), which won South Africa's Ernst van Heerden Creative Writing Award and is here represented by 'Purification' and 'Prometheus's Child'.

'Flash Reviews' looks at four new single-author collections from Britain, the concerns of which are variously provincial, metropolitan, and international. *The Half-Life of Songs* arguably establishes David Gaffney as unofficial flash laureate of northern England; Gemma Seltzer's *Speak to Strangers* and Jeremy Worman's *Fragmented* evoke contrasting London lives; and in *Storm Warning: Echoes of Conflict* Welsh writer Vanessa Gebbie explores the human stories behind war, contemporary and historical. Also reviewed are the innovative *Hint Fiction: An Anthology of Stories in 25 Words or Fewer*, edited by Robert Swartwood, and an often-humorous compendium from the USA's Rose Metal Press short-short chapbook contest, *They Could No Longer Contain Themselves: A Collection of Five Flash Chapbooks*, by Elizabeth J. Colen, John Jodzio, Tim Jones-Yelvington, Sean Lovelace, and Mary Miller.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

**Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler**

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