

## Editorial

Welcome to the tenth issue of *Flash*. This issue features new stories from Argentina, Austria, Britain, Canada, Germany, South Africa, and the USA. We are especially pleased to open with five stories in translation: ‘Lassie in the Cesspit’, by eminent Austrian author Josef Winkler, was first published in *Leichnam, seine Familie belauernd* [Corpse stalking its family] (2003) and has been translated from the German by Adrian West. Four stories by Argentina’s celebrated Ana María Shua, translated from the Spanish by Steven J. Stewart, originally appeared in *Fenómenos de circo* [Circus freaks] (2011) but were omitted from the English-language edition *Without a Net* (2012). Shua’s *Microfictions* (2009) was presented in *Flash*, 4.1; *Without a Net* will be reviewed in 6.2.

A number of new stories offer exclusive foretastes of forthcoming collections: David Gaffney’s six pieces will appear in *More Sawn-Off Tales* (Salt, 2013); Kobus Moolman’s ‘The Creature with Enormous Arms’ and ‘The Girl Who Lives Beneath a Metal Weight’ will inhabit *Left Over* (Dye Hard Press, 2013). Gaffney and Moolman have previously illuminated *Flash*; we also welcome the return of Ihab Hassan, David Higgins, Nigel Jarrett, Michael Mohr, David Steward, David Swann, and Robert Scotellaro, whose collection *Measuring the Distance* is reviewed.

This issue’s ‘*Flash Presents*’ is devoted to collections for children, featuring four stories from books in Oxford University Press’s ‘Short’ series: Maggie Pearson’s *Short and Shocking!* (2002), and Louise Cooper’s *Short and Scary!* (2002) and *Short and Spooky!* (2005). Another volume in the series, Kevin Crossley-Holland’s *Short Too!* (2011), was reviewed in *Flash*, 5.1.

‘*Flash Reviews*’ is testament to the ever-increasing popularity of the short-short form, containing an unprecedented eight reviews of a wide range of works. Books considered include *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Nonfiction*, Ewan Morrison’s genre-melding/bending *Tales from the Mall*, and Khaled Alkhamissi’s *Taxi*, which was first published in Egypt in 2006 and has been translated from the Arabic by Jonathan Wright.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

**Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler**

## Contents

Editorial	ix
Lassie in the Cesspit <i>Josef Winkler</i>	1
Surprise <i>Ana María Shua</i>	2
Political Correctness <i>Ana María Shua</i>	3
The Elephant Man <i>Ana María Shua</i>	4
Traveling Freaks <i>Ana María Shua</i>	5
Something Happened Here <i>David Gaffney</i>	6
Everything's West of Something <i>David Gaffney</i>	7
The Three Rooms in Valerie's Head <i>David Gaffney</i>	8
It's All in Storage <i>David Gaffney</i>	9
Functional Market Area <i>David Gaffney</i>	10
The Big Pub <i>David Gaffney</i>	11

The Creature with Enormous Arms <i>Kobus Moolman</i>	12
The Girl Who Lives Beneath a Metal Weight <i>Kobus Moolman</i>	13
The Other Girl with Red Hands <i>Kobus Moolman</i>	14
Three Fragments of Sitting and Looking <i>Kobus Moolman</i>	15
The Prophet <i>Ihab Hassan</i>	17
Hunter <i>Mika Seifert</i>	19
The Gamble <i>Alexandra Strnad</i>	20
Raspberries <i>Michael Mohr</i>	22
JoJo Tries to Get Back <i>Jeanne Holtzman</i>	24
Icarus <i>Jane Flanagan</i>	26
Horse Stance <i>Paul Sweeten</i>	28
Reading Age <i>Nigel Jarrett</i>	30
Needs <i>David Steward</i>	31

Rooftops <i>Pria Anand</i>	33
Hair <i>Rachael Ellis</i>	35
Waiting for His Hair to Grow Back <i>Mark Patrick Lynch</i>	37
Geography <i>Clare Kirwan</i>	39
The Borrower <i>Clare Kirwan</i>	41
The Return of Amelia Earheart <i>Peter Cherches</i>	42
Check-Out Time <i>Peter Cherches</i>	43
Hard-Boiled <i>Peter Cherches</i>	44
Some Like It Hot <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	45
Feasting on Crumbs <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	46
Fire-Walker <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	47
10 Seconds to Lift-Off <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	48
Magic 8-Ball <i>Robert Scotellaro</i>	49

Waiting for Frank's Pigeons <i>David Swann</i>	51
Skinner & Dewhurst <i>David Swann</i>	53
The Inner Peace of Frank Sinatra <i>David Swann</i>	54
Heavy <i>David Swann</i>	56
Civil Defence <i>David Swann</i>	58
Theatre Trip During a Storm <i>David Swann</i>	60
Malvinas <i>David Swann</i>	62
The Goat of Mendes <i>David Swann</i>	63
Coda <i>David Higgins</i>	64
<b><i>Flash Presents</i></b>	
Maggie Pearson	
• 'Old Ted (7)'	67
• 'Old Ted (8)'	68
Louise Cooper	
• 'Monsters'	70
• 'All the Fun of the Fear'	72

## ***Flash Reviews***

Dinty W. Moore (ed.), *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Nonfiction*

- Reviewer: *Paul McDonald* 77
- Sample story: 'Toy Soldier' *Rigoberto González* 79

Ewan Morrison, *Tales from the Mall*

- Reviewer: *William Stephenson* 81
- Sample story: 'Incident in a Mall #7: Rena the Cleana' 83

Khaled Alkhamissi, *Taxi*

- Reviewer: *Alex Tickell* 86
- Sample story: 'Twenty-Seven' 88

Tony Williams, *All the Bananas I've Never Eaten*

- Reviewer: *Vanessa Gebbie* 90
- Sample story: 'The Blinds' 92

Robert Scotellaro, *Measuring the Distance*

- Reviewer: *Randall Brown* 93
- Sample story: 'Revelation at IHOP' 95

Stefanie Freele, *Surrounded by Water*

- Reviewer: *Georgina O'Brien Hill* 96
- Sample story: 'Fifteen Minutes' 98

Ian Seed, *Threadbare Fables*

- Reviewer: *Emily-Jo Hopson* 100
- Sample story: 'Documentary' 102

Aaron Teel, *Shampoo Horns*

- Reviewer: *Caroline Jones* 103
- Sample story: 'The Babysitter's Trailer' 105

**Advertisements** 107

