

It's time to **DOWNLOAD** our Winter Issue!

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Share your **THOUGHTS!**

CML News

When the phone rings at CML during our regular office hours (9 to 4 Eastern Time), something special happens—we answer. You won't get a machine or a robot or call waiting; you don't need to have an account number ready; you don't even have to know what you need. All you have to do is call. Most likely, Jackie (or Mike, David, Annie or Pam) will answer and provide clarity, service and answers, all in a friendly manner. It's how we roll.

This personal touch is the legacy of LuEsther T. Mertz, our founding benefactress. It is because of her legacy of dedication and commitment to public service that so many today can enjoy the multitudinous expressions of art she fostered. And why you, dear listeners, can enjoy some of the finest magazine writing in the world.

And where will this issue of CML take you as we begin this New Year of 2015? Let's start with a scene. Imagine a kitchen. In it sit a mother and daughter talking into the dawn. The tea grows cold. What is revealed in this precious moment about memories and time? Does the poem by **Eavan Boland**, the first piece in the issue, have something to tell us about *us*?

It is the great joy of the CML editors to invite you to walk the walk of your fellow beings and enter other realms. We share with you the mothers and fathers, researchers and roustabouts, soldiers and surgeons, dogs and cats and turtles and fishes of the world. We introduce the thoughts of the librarians and losers, sages and storytellers, prisoners and patriots, the historians and the hilarious. Who are all these beings with their hopes and dreams and distinctive world views? What do they have to say to you? We hope you enjoy another year of listening with us, thinking about and being among the many.

Highlights

We get a secret thrill when our recording studio, Talking Book Publishers (Denver, CO), produces one of our chosen pieces so brilliantly that we wish everyone we knew could hear it. Copyright laws prohibit that, but we'd like to encourage you not to miss the 13-minute piece of fiction by **Martin Amis** called "Self-Portrait." When the editors read this in Granta, we knew we had to give this light and funny story a chance. Our veteran volunteer Woody Garrian did such a fine job with the evaluation reading that any reservations about using it dissolved. We knew it had a place in an upcoming issue and we chose Guy Williams as the studio narrator.

Guy is a relative newcomer to CML, but he has quickly become an energetic, comedic voice in our stable of professionals. You can enjoy his hilarious work on "Self-Portrait," but his talent ranges far and his broad skills are in evidence throughout this issue. He reads about the ineffable ("Where Paradise Lay" by **Joe Wilkins**), eating rations in the military ("Lamb Stew" by **Will Mackin**) and chow in boarding school ("Immovable Feast" by **Chang-Rae Lee**). He's up close and personal with a man who lived alone and undetected in the woods for three decades ("The Strange and Curious Tale of the Last True Hermit" by **Michael Finkel**), and chummily reminisces about the job scene in New York City in the late '60s ("Page Turner" by **John Crowley**). Finally, hear him soberly share a message of how we humans are adapting to the imminent shortage of fresh seafood in "How to Farm a Better Fish" by **Joel K. Bourne**.

Top Picks

In each issue, the editors usually have a favorite piece—one that lingers in the head and heart long after we have finished proofing and listening. For one of us, the Winter Issue favorite is "Thing With Feathers That Perches in the Soul" by **Anthony Doerr**. Here, his beautifully crafted writing weaves themes of love and hope and history so surprising in their depth, said editor became *verklemt*.

[Let us know](#) what you felt.

And Special Thanks To ...

Ray G. from Rhode Island, who told us ...

"I've been getting CML since 1962. Heck, I've gotten it for so long, it's a part of me now!"

Enjoy!