

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

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CML News

There are three editors here at CML—Pam, Annie and David—and each brings unique work and life experiences to the task of finding the best material for CML. Pam is editor in chief and has been here the longest—since 2000—and David the shortest (a year this past December), with Annie somewhere in the middle (nine years). In other words, we each have a backstory. At the risk of being self-indulgent, we thought you'd like to know some of the things that make us uniquely qualified to choose what you listen to each quarter.

Pam is a novelist... and so is her twin sister! Formerly a freelance book copy editor, a short-order cook (college) and a library page, Pam brings a wicked wit and jaunty sense of humor, and can spot funny in a mountain of words. She was born in the Southwest and has deep roots in the South. She is also a sucker for anything about archeology and trains.

Annie is a public librarian... and so is her twin sister! (Just kidding.) Seriously, though, the diverse skills required by child care (eight siblings), book selling, public relations, librarianship, and girls basketball coaching have come in handy at CML. As a former jock, she seeks anything sports-related and searches out the authentic and emotionally surprising voices in all she reads.

David (who you met in [newsletter #305](#)) is a scholar... and so is his twin brother! (There really is no twin but Pam's, but we couldn't resist.) He hails from London, but studied and worked in numerous places before he landed here. He has edited everything from TV news scripts to translated statements by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. He is an important addition to our team for his critical thinking and superlative command of the English language, and his poetry chops are stellar.

Highlights

After the tough winter many of us recently bid "good riddance!" to, we started the spring issue off with one of our favorite essayists, **Brian Doyle** ("Sensualiterature"), a man whose writing gifts include taking the smallest atoms of life and making them more than human. We like his work so much he actually appears twice in this issue ("The Game").

To ease you back into the reality of sun and the sounds and smells of spring, this issue contains lots of fiction—though it's not all skittles and beer. We liked these stories for the subtle ways they show a class divide. **Wells Tower** depicts privilege in a winner-takes-all tennis game ("Hammer Island"), **J. Robert Lennon** uses artisanal bread as a metaphor for boundary crossing ("Breadman"), **Breece D'J Pancake** introduces us to the guts of a hardscrabble life in a West Virginia coal mine ("Hollow"), and **Elizabeth McCracken** (who was recently awarded The Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award—Britain) takes a long look at the impact of art on a life ("Peter Elroy: A Documentary by Ian Casey"). We think you'll have lots of food for thought while the lilacs are releasing their perfume.

Top Picks

We are always pleased to share the work of authors who have the incredible ability to take a fairly complex topic and give it a robust and balanced inside look. **William Langewiesche** ("Salvage Beast") is one, **Burkhard Bilger** ("The Ride of Their Lives") is another, and **Caroline Alexander** ("The Invisible War on the Brain") still another. They tackle subjects (rescue and recycling on a grand scale, kid cowboys, and the science of blast trauma on the brain, respectively) in such a way that you are left feeling more aware about something you probably knew very little about beforehand. Please enjoy these masters.

And finally, as the icing on the cake, this issue has some special audio. Don't miss "Lines for Hard Times: A Conversation with Edward Hirsch" by Curtis Fox, a podcast about poet **Philip Levine** (he died on Valentine's Day); and "Exposure," a poem by **Wilfred Owen** about World War I. It is beautifully read by our own David Hartley-Margolin, and there is the added bonus of birdsong at the end. Can you

guess what kind of bird it is, based on the lines of the poem (or your own expert ear)? [Let us know](#) what you think.

And Special Thanks To...

Mary Lou M. from Hartford, CT, who told us...

"I love your magazine. The best listening I have learned about since I became blind. I really need it!"

And get this: Mary Lou wove the old CML 4-track cassette tapes into wall hangings! Talk about multimedia creativity!

Enjoy!