

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

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CML News

Sometimes we take a certain attitude toward an author; we become attached, they become our friends. When we see something written by them, we light up, say, "Hello! There you are!" and dig in for guaranteed pleasure. Back in March we heard that one of our favorites, **Brian Doyle**, was ill. *The American Scholar* had suggested readers might enjoy rereading his best-known essay, "Joyas Voladoras" (it means "flying jewels" in Spanish.) We loved it and held it for using in the summer issue. And then we found out our friend, whose voice has graced this magazine a score of times since 2003, had died. There is little to say in such sadness, but please make sure you listen to "Joyas Voladoras" and hear the joy he found in the smallest of things. We'll miss you, friend.

Highlights

Summer idylls, that's what we recommend. Slow, thoughtful, solo meanderings while basking in the heat. We offer **Erica Funkhouser's** "One Salt Marsh, One Hawk, One Swimmer" and **Clifford Thompson's** "The Moon, The World, The Dream." Both essays elevate self-reflection, through place and time, to an art.

Few writers can marry a suburban, post-war past to the present better than **Floyd Skloot**. In "La Serenata" he describes a hometown restaurant as a cast-of-characters refuge during a childhood fraught with illness, confusion, and developing appetites. You might want to make some chicken cacciatore before you listen.

And if you ever wondered what motivates a Chinese student to succeed, **Xiaolu Guo**, currently an author and filmmaker in Britain, lived her early life in a remote Chinese village. In "Well Done, No. 3777!" she describes the herculean process of gaining entrance into Beijing's only film school.

Top Picks

We hope you indulge in "Feel Me," an article about haptics, a relatively new field filled with scientists, engineers, and philosophers working to explain, create, control, and apply the science and mechanics of touch. What actually happens in the brain and nerves and skin when you run your fingers over a piece of corduroy or silk? Or how does one retrain a phantom limb from feeling constant pain to grasping a morning cup of joe? Or when will we be able to "take a virtual lover" to our bed? *The New Yorker's* **Adam Gopnik** skillfully gathers the latest news and complex ideas and generates a thorough and stimulating journey.

Summer just wouldn't feel the same without some devil-may-care stories to read. This issue has four, and each one guarantees a wicked surprise. "Kinsella in His Hole," by **Hilary Mantel**, is the darkest, but don't let the black humor keep you from seeing the (not so) subtle effects of teaching your children well. "The Wild Side of Life," by **James Lee Burke**, divines the inner life of the not-so-typical oil field worker in love. Burke is a master at setting the scene. **Martha McPhee** harkens back to a simpler time when train travel, nuns in habits, going west, and childhood obedience take us to "Magic City." And finally, **Gabe Herron** offers a tale of before and after, soothsaying and surety, best buds and IPAs. "The Oracle of Denny's" is a modern take on the big questions of life.

And Special Thanks To ...

Albert S., from Plantation, FL, whose daughter, Shari, let us know of his passing and of how much he enjoyed "all the beautiful stories...He really, really loved CML a lot."

Happy summer from Pam, Annie, Jay, Mike, and Raquel!