

CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	xv
-------------------------------	----

ANIMALS

The Chicken, <i>Linda Elegant</i>	3
Rascal, <i>Yale Huffman</i>	4
The Yellow Butterfly, <i>Simonette Jackson</i>	6
Python, <i>Judith Beth Cohen</i>	7
Pooh, <i>Patricia L. Lambert</i>	9
New York Stray, <i>Edith S. Marks</i>	11
Pork Chop, <i>Eric Wynn</i>	12
B, <i>Suzanne Stroh</i>	14
Two Loves, <i>Will Coffey</i>	16
Rabbit Story, <i>Barry Foy</i>	17
Carolina, <i>Kelly O'Neill</i>	19
Andy and the Snake, <i>Ron Fabian</i>	21
Blue Skies, <i>Corki Stewart</i>	24
Exposure, <i>Michael Oppenheimer</i>	25
Vertigo, <i>Janet Schmidt Zupan</i>	27

OBJECTS

Star and Chain, <i>Steve Lacheen</i>	33
Radio Gypsy, <i>Bill Calm</i>	34
A Bicycle Story, <i>Edith Riemer</i>	36
Grandmother's China, <i>Kristine Lundquist</i>	39
The Bass, <i>Mark Snyder</i>	41
Mother's Watch, <i>Raymond Barry</i>	44
Case Closed, <i>Jerry Hoke</i>	46
The Photo, <i>Beverly Peterson</i>	47
MS. Found in an Attic, <i>Marcus Rosenbaum</i>	49
Tempo Primo, <i>Lauren Shapiro</i>	50
A Lesson Not Learned, <i>Carol Sherman-Jones</i>	52
A Family Christmas, <i>Don Graves</i>	54
My Rocking Chair, <i>Dick Bain</i>	55
The Unicycle, <i>Gordon Lee Stelter</i>	57

Moccasins, <i>Fr. Keith Clark</i>	59
The Striped Pen, <i>Robert M. Rock</i>	61
The Doll, <i>Robert McGee</i>	63
The Videotape, <i>Marie Johnson</i>	66
The Purse, <i>Barbara Hudin</i>	68
A Gift of Gold, <i>John Keith</i>	70

FAMILIES

Rainout, <i>Stan Benkoski</i>	75
Isolation, <i>Lucy Hayden</i>	76
Connections, <i>Miriam Rosenzweig</i>	78
The Wednesday Before Christmas, <i>Jack Fear</i>	80
How My Father Lost His Job, <i>Fred Muratori</i>	82
Danny Kowalski, <i>Charlie Peters</i>	85
Revenge, <i>Eric Brotman</i>	87
Chris, <i>Edwina Portelle Romero</i>	89
Put Your Little Foot, <i>Anna Thorson</i>	92
Aunt Myrtle, <i>Laura Braughton Waters</i>	95
American Odyssey, <i>Jane Adams</i>	97
A Plate of Peas, <i>Rick Beyer</i>	99
Wash Guilt, <i>Heather Atwood</i>	101
Double Sadness, <i>Martha Russell Hsu</i>	103
A Picture of Life, <i>Jeanine Mankins</i>	106
Margie, <i>Christine Kravetz</i>	109
One Thousand Dollars, <i>I. Z.</i>	111
Taking Leave, <i>Joe Miceli</i>	114
Act of Memory, <i>Mary Grace Dembeck</i>	120

SLAPSTICK

Bicoastal, <i>Beth Kivel</i>	125
A Felt Fedora, <i>Joan Wilkins Stone</i>	126
Man vs. Coat, <i>Mel Singer</i>	127
That's Entertainment, <i>Nancy Wilson</i>	128
The Cake, <i>G. B.</i>	129
Riding with Andy, <i>Jim Furlong</i>	131
Sophisticated Lady, <i>Joan Vanden Heuvel</i>	132
My First Day in Priest Clothes, <i>Eugene O'Brien</i>	133
Jewish Cowboy, <i>Jennifer Pye</i>	134
How to Win Friends and Influence People, <i>Jerry Yellin</i>	135
Your Father Has the Hay Fever, <i>Tony Powell</i>	136

Lee Ann and Holly Ann, <i>Holly A. Heffelbower</i>	139
Why I Am Antifur, <i>Freddie Levin</i>	140
Airport Story, <i>Randy Welch</i>	142
Tears and Flapdoodle, <i>Alice Owens-Johnson</i>	144
The Club Car, <i>John Flannelly</i>	146
Bronx Cheer, <i>Joe Rizzo</i>	148
One Day in Higley, <i>Carl Brooksby</i>	150

STRANGERS

Dancing on Seventy-fourth Street, <i>Catherine Austin Alexander</i>	153
A Conversation with Bill, <i>John Brawley</i>	154
Greyhounding, <i>Beth Twigg Goff</i>	156
A Little Story about New York, <i>Dana T. Payne</i>	159
My Mistake, <i>Ludlow Perry</i>	162
No Forwarding Address, <i>Josh Dorman</i>	164
The New Girl, <i>Marc Mitchell</i>	165
The Iceman of Market Street, <i>R. C. Van Kooy</i>	168
Me and the Babe, <i>Saul Isler</i>	171
Lives of the Poets, <i>Clayton Eshleman</i>	172
Land of the Lost, <i>Erica Hagen</i>	173
Rainbow, <i>Katie Letcher Lyle</i>	175
Rescued by God, <i>Mary Ann Garrett</i>	177
My Story, <i>Rachel Watson</i>	179
Small World, <i>Paul K. Humiston</i>	183
Christmas Morning, 1949, <i>Sylvia Seymour Akin</i>	186
Brooklyn Roberts, <i>Adolph Lopez</i>	188
\$1,380 per Night, Double Occupancy, <i>Bruce Edward Hall</i>	190
A Shot in the Light, <i>Lion Goodman</i>	195
Snow, <i>Juliana C. Nash</i>	202

WAR

The Fastest Man in the Union Army, <i>Michael Kuretich</i>	207
Christmas, 1862, <i>Grace Sale Wilson</i>	208
Mount Grappa, <i>Mary Parsons Burkett</i>	210
Savenay, <i>Harold Tapper</i>	212
Fifty Years Later, <i>Gisela Cloos Evitt</i>	213
He Was the Same Age as My Sister, <i>Mieke C. Malandra</i>	214
Betting on Uncle Louie, <i>Jeanne W. Halpern</i>	216
The Ten-Goal Player, <i>Paul Ebeltoft</i>	218
The Last Hand, <i>Bill Helmantoler</i>	220

August 1945, <i>Robert C. North and Dorothy North</i>	222
One Autumn Afternoon, <i>Willa Parks Ward</i>	224
I Thought My Father Was God, <i>Robert Winnie</i>	226
The Celebration, <i>Reginald Thayer</i>	228
Christmas, 1945, <i>Lloyd Hustvedt</i>	230
A Trunk Full of Memories, <i>Morton N. Cohen</i>	232
A Walk in the Sun, <i>Donald Zucker</i>	235
A Shot in the Dark, <i>David Ayres</i>	237
Confessions of a Mouseketeer, <i>Doreen Tracey</i>	239
Forever, <i>Maria Barcelona</i>	241
Utah, 1975, <i>Steve Hale</i>	243

LOVE

What If?, <i>Theodore Lustig</i>	247
The Mysteries of Tortellini, <i>Kristina Streeter</i>	249
An Involuntary Assistant, <i>C. W. Schmitt</i>	251
The Plot, <i>Bev Ford</i>	253
Mathematical Aphrodisiac, <i>Alex Galt</i>	255
Table for Two, <i>Lori Peikoff</i>	257
Suzy's Choosy, <i>Suzanne Druehl</i>	259
Top Button, <i>Earl Roberts</i>	260
Lace Gloves, <i>Karen Cycon Dermody</i>	262
Susan's Greetings, <i>Susan Sprague</i>	263
Edith, <i>Bill Froke</i>	264
Souls Fly Away, <i>Laura McHugh</i>	267
Awaiting Delivery, <i>John Wiley</i>	269
The Day Paul and I Flew the Kite, <i>Ann Davis</i>	270
A Lesson in Love, <i>Alvin Rosser</i>	272
Ballerina, <i>Nicolas Wieder</i>	274
The Fortune Cookie, <i>Sharli Land-Polanco</i>	276

DEATH

Ashes, <i>Sara Wilson</i>	279
Harrisburg, <i>Randee Rosenfeld</i>	281
Something to Think About, <i>P. Rohmann</i>	283
Good Night, <i>Ellise Rossen</i>	285
Charlie the Tree Killer, <i>Frank Young</i>	287
Dead Man's Bluff, <i>Joel Einschlag</i>	288
My Best Friend, <i>Olga Hardman</i>	290
I Didn't Know, <i>Linda Marine</i>	291

Cardiac Arrests, <i>Sherwin Waldman</i>	293
Grandmother's Funeral, <i>Martha Duncan</i>	294
High Street, <i>Judith Englander</i>	296
A Failed Execution, <i>David Anderson</i>	297
The Ghost, <i>G. A. Gonzalez</i>	299
Heart Surgery, <i>Dr. G.</i>	301
The Crying Place, <i>Tim Gibson</i>	302
Lee, <i>Jodie Walters</i>	303
South Dakota, <i>Nancy Peavy</i>	305
Connecting with Phil, <i>Tom Sellew</i>	308
The Letter, <i>Brian F. McGee</i>	310
Dress Rehearsal, <i>Ellen Powell</i>	312
The Anonymous Deciding Factor, <i>Hollie Caldwell Campanella</i>	315

DREAMS

4:05 A.M., <i>Matthew Menary</i>	319
In the Middle of the Night, <i>Steve Harper</i>	320
Blood, <i>James Sharpsteen</i>	321
T321 Interpretation of Dreams, <i>V. Ferguson-Stewart</i>	322
Half-Ball, <i>Jack Edmonston</i>	323
Friday Night, <i>Steve Hodgman</i>	325
Farrell, <i>Stew Schneider</i>	327
"Jill," <i>Kara Husson</i>	329
D-day, <i>Richard R. Rosman</i>	330
The Wall, <i>Vicky Johnson</i>	331
Heaven, <i>Grace Fichtelberg</i>	333
My Father's Dream, <i>Mary McCallum</i>	335
Parallel Lives, <i>Timothy Ackerman</i>	337
Anna May, <i>Jeff Raper</i>	340
Long Time Gone, <i>Lynn Duvall</i>	342

MEDITATIONS

Sewing Lessons, <i>Donna M. Bronner</i>	347
Sunday Drive, <i>Bob Ayers</i>	350
Mayonnaise Sandwiches, <i>Thomas Corrado</i>	354
Seaside, <i>Tanya Collins</i>	355
After a Long Winter, <i>Eileen O'Hara</i>	358
Martini with a Twist, <i>Dede Ryan</i>	359
Nowhere, <i>John Howze</i>	362
Where in the World Is Era Rose Rodosta?, <i>Carolyn Brasher</i>	363

Peter, <i>Mark Gover</i>	365
Early Arithmetic, <i>Sandra Waller</i>	368
Reflections on a Hubcap, <i>Roger Brinkerhoff</i>	371
Homeless in Prescott, Arizona, <i>B. C.</i>	373
Being There, <i>Tim Clancy</i>	376
An Average Sadness, <i>Ameni Rozsa</i>	378
Index of Authors	381