



THE MEMOIRIST QUARTERLY

AUGUST 2023





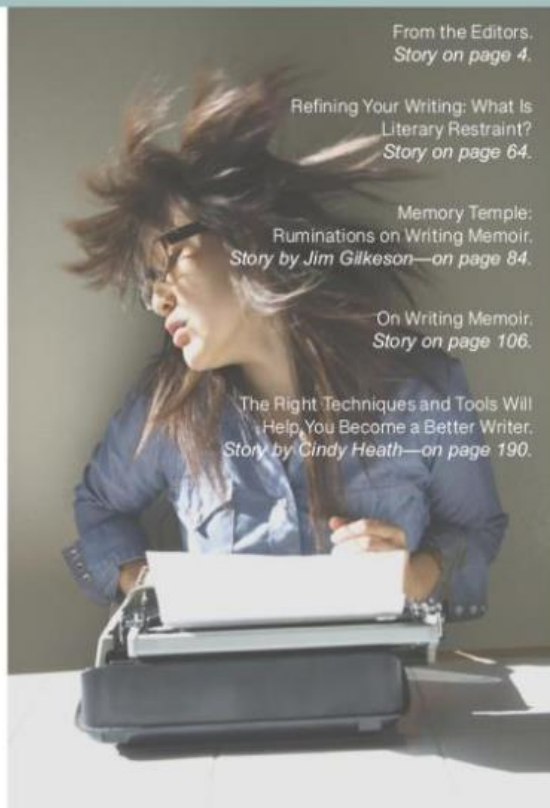
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Artwork:
Christopher Robin
Pages: Cover, default artwork

Photography:
Carlos Garbira
Pages: 26-27, 126-127, 134-135

Artwork:
Jenny Lane
Pages: 48-49, 76-77, 101

Photography:
Charlie Cole
Pages: 62-63, 69



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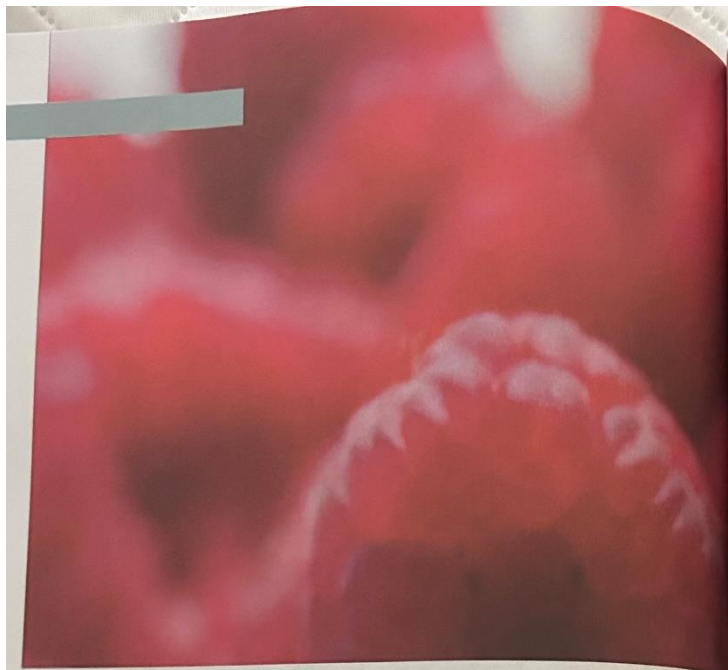
Artwork:
Amuri Morris
"Shelton Johnson Calls"
Pages: 104-105

Artwork:
Bj Noreault
Pages: 38-39, 142-143

Prose & Photography:
Kasey Sparks
Pages: 132-133

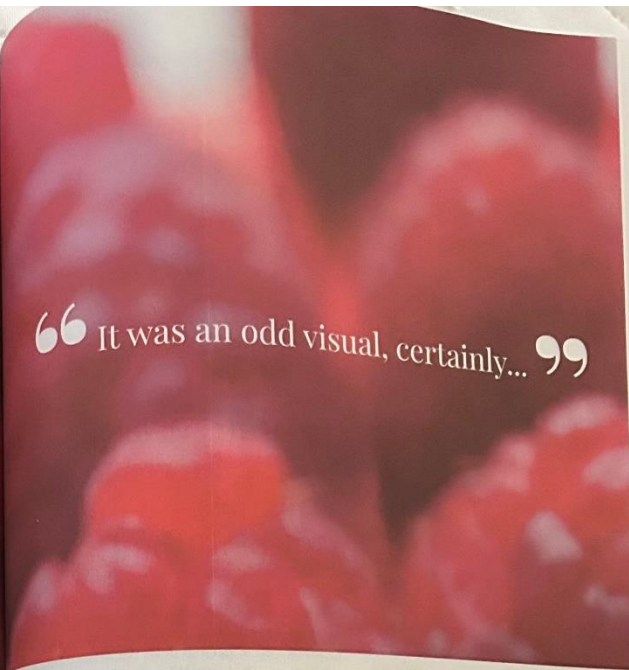
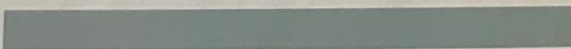
Artwork:
Emily Dooley
Pages: 180-181, 194-195

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A Duality Within Me

by Ann Kathryn Kelly



“It was an odd visual, certainly...”

“Think of it like a raspberry,” he said.

It was an odd visual, certainly, yet I followed his lead because it was easier—better—to picture ripe berries that signal summer’s bounty. Light and growth. To ignore the reality, dark and wasting. I looked across the desk at this surgeon, appreciating how white his hospital lab coat looked under humming fluorescent lights; his name, Cornelius Cass, MD, in black stitching over his

chest pocket. His coat hadn’t a wrinkle. Under it, he wore a blue shirt, striped tie, with alternating bands of black and navy blue in diagonal slices.

Slices. Like the two-dimensional slices of my brain, projected onto his computer monitor that he angled toward Sean and me. My brother, eighteen months older, had driven me to my appointment because he hated Boston traffic. My mother wanted him with me as another

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