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*And then . . .*

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“I had hoped for more; what traveller doesn’t?”	
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“There were cheers and laughter as Tivadar hit me in the nose before I got my jacket off. It was not the first time I had tasted my own blood, but it was the first time a Christian had made it flow.”	

**SYLVIA FRASER, My Other Self** 29  
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**CAROL GEDDES, Growing Up Native** 34  
 “She yelled at me to read and when I didn’t she smashed her pointing stick on the desk to frighten me.”

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*For example . . .*

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 “In China, roadside electronic billboards not only give directions to nearby lots and garages, they crucially reveal how many empty spaces are left.”

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 “The ’90s featured a litany of numbered bands: Sum 41, Finger Eleven, blink-182, Matchbox Twenty, NC-17, Six Doors Down, 50 Cent, Buck 65 . . . , 88 Fingers Louie, 7 Seconds, Mojave 3, Bran Van 3000, Andre 3000, and Powerman 5000, who by dint of his name, was clearly at least 2000 better than anyone else.”

**J. KELLY NESTRUCK, The Importance of Email Punctuation: A Cautionary Tale** 60  
 “A semi-colon in an email (‘We should meet at Peel Pub; it is finally wet T-shirt night again.’) is as out of place as an exclamation point in an essay (‘The Miskitu Indians were subordinate to both the Nicaraguan state and the institution of American neo-colonialism!’)”

**MARGARET WENTE, Busy, Busy, Busy** 64  
 “‘It’s horrible,’ someone will say. ‘I took three days off and when I got back to the office I had six hundred e-mails!’”

**RAY GUY, Outharbor Menu** 68  
 “What feeds we used to have. Not way back in the pod auger days, mind you. That was before my time. I mean not long ago, just before the tinned stuff and the packages and the baker’s bread started to trickle into the outports.”

**GORAN SIMIC, Goodbye Muse, Hello Prada** 73  
 “In my first Canadian job, I came to realize that the load of ideas and words I carried in my head was worth less than what I could lug on my back.”

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*It's large and purple and . . .*


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*Here’s why . . .*


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“Canadian men are pretty honest. In my experience, they tend to lie only when they feel they have to. . . .”	

- DAVID SUZUKI, Hidden Lessons** 127  
 “Children learn attitudes and values very quickly and the lesson in cities is very clear — nature is an enemy, it’s dirty, dangerous or a nuisance.”
- NAHEED MUSTAFA, My Body Is My Own Business** 132  
 “I get the whole gamut of strange looks, stares and covert glances. You see, I wear the *hijab*. . . .”
- LINDA McQUAIG, Killing Machines** 136  
 “When an SUV hits a car from the side, it can ride up over the car’s door frame and right into the passenger compartment. (Well, hello there!)”
- NATHALIE PETROWSKI, The Seven-Minute Life of Marc Lépine** 141  
 “No one remembers him from grade school, or from Sainte-Justine Hospital where he spent a year in therapy with his mother and sister. Until last week Marc Lépine did not exist.”
- MORDECAI RICHLER, 1944: The Year I Learned to Love a German** 146  
 “I never expected that a mere novel, a stranger’s tale, could actually be dangerous, creating such turbulence in my life, obliging me to question so many received ideas. About Germans. About my own monumental ignorance of the world. About what novels were.”

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*It’s just the opposite of . . .*

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- JACK LAYTON, Measuring the New Prosperity** 164  
 “Spraying more pesticides on lawns is good for the economy, because people are buying and spending. If this produces increased health costs later, so much the better, as far as our economic measurements go. The absurdities go on and on.”
- MARIA COFFEY, An Offering from the Dead** 168  
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- CATHERINE PIGOTT, Chicken-Hips** **172**  
 “One needed to be round and wide to make the dance beautiful. There was no place for thinness here. It made people sad. It reminded them of things they wanted to forget. . . .”
- RAFI MUSTAFA, The Bond of Nightmares** **177**  
 “We were running for our lives to cross the border from India into Pakistan. I was told that Pakistan was our new country. We were Muslims, and for some reason did not belong to our homeland anymore.”
- DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR, This Boat Is My Boat** **182**  
 “Usually, the only white water native people enjoy is in their showers. Hurling toward potential death and certain injury tends to go against many traditional native beliefs. Contrary to popular assumption, ‘portage’ is not a French word — it is Ojibway for ‘Are you crazy? I’m not going through that! Do you know how much I paid for this canoe?’”
- CATHARINE PARR TRAILL, Remarks of Security of Person and Property in Canada** **187**  
 “At first I could hardly understand why it happened that I never felt the same sensation of fear in Canada as I had done in England. My mind seemed lightened of a heavy burden; and I, who had been so timid, grew brave and fearless amid the gloomy forests of Canada.”
- LAURENCE HILL, Black + White = Black** **191**  
 “Dan, Karen and I learned early that you can have a white parent and still be considered black, but you can never have a black parent and be considered white. It ain’t allowed.”

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*In a way, it’s like . . .*

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**SAMANTHA BENNETT, It's Not Just the Weather That's Cooler in Canada** 208

"We must be the only ones who really care about families. Not enough to make sure they all have health insurance, of course, but more than those libertines up north."

**BASIL JOHNSTON, Modern Cannibals of the Wilds** 212

"The forests resounded with the clash of axes and the whine of saws as blades bit into the flesh of spruce, pine, cedar, tamarack and poplar to fill the demands of the weendigoes in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, New York, Chicago, Boston, wherever they now dwell."

**FÉLIX LECLERC, The Family House** 217

"We were all, brothers and sisters alike, born in a long three-storey wooden house, a house as humped and crusty as a loaf of homemade bread, as warm and clean inside as the white of the loaf."

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*There are three kinds of them . . .*

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"The day is quickly coming when people with only one culture will find it difficult to compete, let alone to prosper."

**IAN and WILL FERGUSON, Theatre** 231

"Tickets cost an arm and a leg, but they're worth every limb, we say, if only because you'll be able to shout, 'Hey! That guy from the Canadian Tire ad is playing Polonius.'"

**GORDON PITTS, Your New Job, Your New Life** 236

". . . amid the flames and wreckage of the World Trade Center, doomed people reached out by cellphones to their families, in order to know that they were loved right up to their last breaths."

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*Here's how it's done . . .*

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"The thin blister on the blood vessel deep in the brain lies in wait for us like a bomb ready to explode and take the patient's life with it. We suit up in our riot gear."

- ALBERT KOEHL, Hockey Etiquette for the Beginner** 254  
 “It is a common mistake, especially for theatre, opera, and symphony lovers, to conclude from the casual attire, beverage choice, and boisterous conduct of hockey fans that watching a game is a cultural event of a lower social order. In reality, the etiquette expected of ice hockey aficionados is quite refined.”
- EVELYN LAU, I Sing the Song of My Condo** 258  
 “I knew then I wanted to live in the world of the mortgage brochures, which never showed these middle-class people lying awake among twisted sheets in their new master bedrooms or throwing up into their ceramic sinks from panic at hefty mortgages and rising interest rates.”
- STEPHEN LEACOCK, How to Live to Be 200** 264  
 “Jiggins is dead. He was, of course, a pioneer, but the fact that he dumb-belled himself to death at an early age does not prevent a whole generation of young men from following in his path.”

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*Therefore . . .*

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 “One paper cup consumes about 12 times as much steam, 36 times as much electricity, and twice as much cooling water as one polystyrene foam cup, while producing 58 times the volume of waste water.”
- KILDARE DOBBS, The Scar** 283  
 “All around her the maimed survivors were running and stumbling away from the roaring furnace that had been a city. She ran with them toward the mountains that ring the landward side of Hiroshima.”
- JOY KOGAWA, Grinning and Happy** 292  
 “Facts about evacuees in Alberta? The fact is I never got used to it and I cannot, I cannot bear the memory. There are some nightmares from which there is no waking, only deeper and deeper sleep.”
- MARGARET ATWOOD, Letter to America** 298  
 “You stood up for freedom, honesty, and justice; you protected the innocent. I believed most of that. I think you did, too. It seemed true at the time.”

- NAOMI KLEIN, *Local Foreign Policy*** 303  
“As the hip-hop started playing and the first kids bounded down the runway in Nike shoes and workout wear, the assembly broke into cheers and applause.”
- RITA SCHINDLER, *Thanks for Not Killing My Son*** 308  
“He required numerous stitches to his forehead, temple and face but your boots didn’t knock one tooth out — thank you.”
- DIONNE BRAND, *Job*** 312  
“What propelled my legs back to the subway was shame. That I could ever think of getting such a job, even so small and mean a job. . . .”
- ROBERT CHRISTY, *Life with Cerebral Palsy*** 315  
“. . . I was popular in the community and at school, received high grades through working hard and exercising an agile mind, and did everything other kids my age did. Yet a close relative thought I should have been ‘destroyed at birth’ because of my condition.”
- Lt.-Gen. ROMÉO DALLAIRE, with Major Brent Beardsley, *Cri de coeur*** 319  
“The warmth of his tiny body snuggled against mine filled me with a peace and serenity that elevated me above the chaos. This child was alive yet terribly hungry, beautiful but covered in dirt, bewildered but not fearful. I made up my mind: this boy would be the fourth child in the Dallaire family. I couldn’t save Rwanda, but I could save this child.”
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