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## The Half-Life of Love - Short Story Contest

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# The Half-Life of Love

## *Short Story Contest*

Our annual short story contest was inspired by Junot Diaz's quote, "*The half-life of love is forever.*" Of the many beautiful submissions we received, the following are our winners and why our judge, former CU English alumna Hana Whisman, loved them:

### **1st Place - The Radioactive Half-Life of Love**

This piece captures the internal struggle of love and logic, as well as the chaos of heartbreak. By personifying Heart, Brain, Pain and Love, the author articulates the push and pull - the conflict - that love brings. The beauty of this story is that these concepts are grounded not just with character, but vivid and powerful imagery.

### **2rd Place - Purgatory**

This haunting piece captures the emotion, love and frustration that comes with a newborn baby. Emotion is developed through vivid imagery, which escalates throughout the story. The twist at the end is what really gives this story its weight.

### **3rd Place - feminism is for boys, too**

This story shows the heartbreak of society's strict expectations toward gender. The argument of the piece is presented clearly via scenes of a broken child and his struggle in a world of toxic masculinity. The strength of the piece is its ability to capture the reader's emotions.