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## 2009-2010 Writing Contest

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## 2009-2010 WRITING CONTEST

*A letter from Cassandra Shaw, Managing Editor*

Several years ago *The Promethean* decided to stage a writing contest for all students, faculty, and staff. The success and popularity of the contest encouraged our current team to continue the tradition in the 2009-2010 edition.

This year, instead of using ink-blot muses or playing off our theme, the staff decided to create a contest which focused on a specific challenge for writers: tell a story in 500 words or less.

Our Short-Short Story Contest received quite a few submissions. Concordia writers were up to the challenge.

Jess Bouchard, alumna of Concordia and a previous editor of *The Promethean* was our judge this year. While studying and writing in graduate school she found the time to select our winners. We thank her for sharing her precious time and energy with us!

A list of all winners can be found on the facing page. Comments on the winning place entries are provided by our judge, Jess Bouchard.

**NOTE ON OUR JUDGE:**

**Jess Bouchard** is an alumna of Concordia University and a previous Managing Editor for *The Promethean*. Currently living in Philadelphia earning an M.F.A. in poetry, she is enjoying the literary life. She has poetry forthcoming in *The Mad Poets Review*, *The Foundling*, and *WordRiot*. She plans to graduate in the next year and teach creative writing abroad. Spain and Argentina are her most attractive prospects.

## NOTES ON WINNING ENTRIES

**1st Place**

*Brie Sylviana-Clarno*

Freely You Shall Receive,  
Freely You Shall Give

**2nd Place**

*Rebecca Carlson*

Lonely Night

**3rd Place**

*Benjamin Fitzgerald*

She's a Woman

**FREELY YOU SHALL RECEIVE, FREELY YOU SHALL GIVE.**

This story captures a sincere voice that speaks poetry. The language is memorable because it manages to make the reader present, to imagine how loss can still have wings. I'm reminded how the written word has the ability to transform the mind -- how powerful language can be, and how trusting we are when handled by a writer with the ability to tear us open and mend us all in the same read. The themes in this piece may speak to a certain audience, but the voice keeps the reader grounded; the reader feels re-invented at the end.

**LONELY NIGHT**

The writing immediately comes alive in this piece. The writer does not hesitate to capture the reader's attention and command we, too, experience the call for help. The language is refreshingly bold and wise, as the story illustrates the need of connection, the need to be heard. Lines like "A twinge of old, buried love makes my throat tight" carry a weight that pleasantly haunts the reader. The writing is simply beautiful.

**SHE'S A WOMAN**

"She's a Woman" has a rhythmic energy that agrees with the opening line "I have the soul of a musician." The writing does not deceive the musical voice. Each line has a pulse. The reader feels the rhythm with each word read. Love and passion are subtle beats that aren't taken for granted. This piece calls for celebration.