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Cover Art by Christopher M

First Class #24 collects stories and poetics meant to draw you into a reflective and contemplative mood. What is the nature of nature, the nature of decay, the nature of human nature? Humans creep around the corners of our culture in a seemingly endless quest for beauty, destruction, pleasure, gain—perhaps a teetering combination of them all.

It is my hope that when you pry your eyes from the pulp it is to pause and allow your synapses to simmer a bit, then ponder a moment or two and ask yourself: what did that mean?

In this time of potential swelling darkness, with bogeymen around every corner, we must consider why and where beauty has fled, and how and where it can again renew itself, replenish itself, or, where action is needed to drag it out from under the gutters.

Again, I am pleased that your eyes are on these pages.

- Christopher M.

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