



## VERY SHORT FICTION AWARD WINNERS

### 1ST PLACE

J. Kevin Shushtari receives \$1200 for “The Vast Garden of Strangers.”

*Old Reza finished his noontime prayers and knelt to fold his rug. He put it in the suitcase under his twin bed and went to the window. His son insisted on air conditioning, but he preferred the humid Boston summer, even when it smelled like spoiling feta, as it did today.*

J. Kevin Shushtari received his MFA from Boston University in May 2010. He lives with his wife, Julie, and their three children in Farmington, Connecticut, where he is at work on a novel. This is his first published story. Kevin is also a practicing physician.

### 2ND PLACE

Graham Arnold receives \$500 for “The Story Is in the Reflection.”

*White moon-washed hands floated in the dark. They pulled Thoi and Nhat into a boat teeming with more hands, hundreds of them, a thicket of people, their bodies fizzing with thoughts of left behind loved ones, the unbearable unknown.*

Graham Arnold teaches English as a Second Language in Toronto, Canada. His work has previously appeared in the *Malahat Review*, *Echolocation*, and *Event Magazine*, and he is the recipient of an Ontario Arts Council grant. He is currently working on a collection of short stories about Japan.

### 3RD PLACE

Nahal Suzanne Jamir receives \$300 for “In Perfect English.”

*But the children, since leaving home, have developed appetites twice as large as the ones they left with. They return ravenous, and she cannot decide if their hunger emerges from a lack of sustenance or insatiability.*

Nahal Suzanne Jamir completed her PhD at Florida State University in 2010. Her stories have been published in the *South Carolina Review*, *Jabberwock Review*, and *Meridian*.

---

*We invite you to visit [www.glimmertrain.org](http://www.glimmertrain.org) to see a list of the top twenty-five winners and finalists. We thank all entrants for sending in their work.*