



The 200 Episode Club: Original Fiction and Poetry (Electric Literature's Recommended Reading)

J. Robert Lennon, Rob McCleary, Morgan Parker, Téa Obreht

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"For Recommended Reading's 200th issue, we present 'The 200 Episode Club': four authors writing on the 200th episode of four sitcoms: J. Robert Lennon on *The Cosby Show*, Rob McCleary on *The Love Boat*, Morgan Parker on *The Jeffersons*, and Téa Obreht on *Frasier*. Each piece is accompanied by an original illustration by poet and artist Chelsea Martin. Though the connection between literature and sitcoms might seem initially tenuous, remember that these TV shows have indelibly made their mark, for better or for worse, on American identity. In the end, whether the culture circle is closing or infinitely spiraling back on itself in a tangled mess of allegory, reference, and the occasional progress may be the best question that emerges from this little experiment. Because of the talent of the issue's writers, what began as a tongue-in-cheek way to commemorate the 200th issue of this magazine has emerged as a powerful commentary on the relationship between literature and pop culture." - Halimah Marcus, Editor-in-Chief, Electric Literature's Recommended Reading

About the Author of "And So, We Commence": J. Robert Lennon's next novel, *Broken River*, will be out from Graywolf in Spring 2017. He is the editor of Electric Literature's *Okey-Panky* and lives in Ithaca, NY.

About the Author of "Captain Stubing Has Collapsed": Rob McCleary's short story "Nixon in Space" appeared in Electric Literature's Recommended Reading series (as selected by Jonathan Lethem). His new work "Winnebago Brave" features drug use, piss play, public masturbation and Saddam Hussein body doubles, and will be appearing in the upcoming anthology "Deserts of Fire" (Douglas Lain, ed.). His book *Too Fat To Go To The Moon* will be out from Zero Books later this year.

About the Author "Magical Negro #607": Morgan Parker is the author of "Other People's Comfort Keeps Me Up At Night" (Switchback Books 2015), selected by Eileen Myles for the 2013 Gatewood Prize, and "There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce," forthcoming from Tin House Books in 2017. Morgan is a Cave Canem graduate fellow, winner of a 2016 Pushcart Prize, and poetry editor for *The Offing*. She also co-curates the Poets With Attitude (PWA) reading series with Tommy Pico, and with Angel Nafis, she is The Other Black Girl Collective.

About the Author of "Retrieval": Téa Obreht was born in Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia in 1985 and has lived in the United States since the age of twelve. Her writing has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *The Guardian*, and has been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*. She has been named by *The New Yorker* as one of the twenty best American fiction writers under forty and included in the National Book Foundation's list of 5 Under 35. Téa Obreht lives in New York.

About the Publisher: Electric Literature is an independent publisher amplifying the power of storytelling through digital innovation. Electric Literature's weekly fiction magazine, *Recommended Reading*, invites established authors, indie presses, and literary magazines to recommended great fiction. Once a month we feature our own recommendation of original, previously unpublished fiction.

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From reader reviews:

Natasha Rich:

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