summer 2024 issue #9

To reboot your life codes. Now, please. form the Bugger, Bought a coffee. Stupid submit mepress HERE. ISAAC VERRALL SIX Spilt it. LISA FARRELL won't let **9** RULE ANON

They look while she pretends not She watches them watching her or red eyes grease and blotches. WRITING PROMPT: To stare back! How arresting Growth witchy, smoky, ancestral moans gently against it. walk down the street something in her gut Corduroy autumn Silks in summer Woollen winter it would be but-BY BEX HARVEY Skin glowing Linen spring Hair flowing

Yourself drowning beneath it all, slowly

Deeper and deeper

adventure worth You're the only

**having.** RIBH IRELAND

# FEMALE GAZE

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VIEWING

BY LAURA FOULGER

a conservatory. minutes later I found myself standing in my childhood home. They'd added he said fitted my criteria. Twenty The estate agent drove me to a house

"Been on the market for over a year."

was unbearable. smell of historical teenage angst I nodded. I understood why; the

TYPE! is a bookmark magazine made by curious creatives Inquisitive Type. About TYPE!

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3. Which Raymond Chandler novel Honeychurch? 2. Which romance features Lucy

and what was he after?

1. Who was the Captain of the Pequod,

ZIUG

4. Pepys Road is the setting for which kick through a stained glass window? featured a blonde who'd make a bishop

Bright'? 5. Who wrote 'Tyger! Tyger! Burning

2012 John Lanchester novel?

1. Ahab and Moby Dick / 2. A Room With A View / 3. Farewell My Lovely / 4. Capital / 5. William Blake

When the night comes rolling in, like

BY SIMON GADD

DROWNING

roaring thunderstorm you find yourself

Buried beneath regret, like some

weighted blanket

holding you down, taking comfort in it

Momentary solace from the creeping

all, some

hand of night

an uninvited guest knocking at your

door, you find

Mr President, ANON

## **EPITAPH**

BY RUBEN CARBAJAL

The **CONDEMNED** stands facing the audience. Seated nearby, holding a stopwatch they never lose sight of, is the **TIMEKEEPER**.

**C** A man has one minute to live.

T Actually, 57 seconds.

**C** What does he do?

**T** 54.

C Does he find love? Write his epitaph? Jerk it furiously?

T Please don't.

**C** Maybe he places hand to chest, his heart a bird seeking escape.

T 44 seconds.

**C** Or drinks a tall, cool glass of water. Splashes some on his face.

**T** We have no water. (Beat) 40 seconds.

C Does he scream?

**T** 37.

**C** In his deliberations, he loses precious time.

**T** 31.

C He thinks of wasted moments; what could've been.
Will you hold my hand?

T No. 24 seconds.

**C** No matter, we all die alone. What do other people do?

T You don't want to know. 18.

**C** I could smash the clock.

**T** (Offers stopwatch to C) It changes nothing.

C I could kill you.

**T** There's not enough time. 12 seconds.

**C** What a gruesome job you have.

**T** It's a living. 7.

**C** Maybe his life could be a message, a warning, no, a plea for others. To live, every day to its-

The **TIMEKEEPER** clicks the stopwatch. LIGHTS OUT.

# WHAT WOMEN WANT

BY ABBIE FRANKLIN

Mark bustles into the flat in the harassed way one does after a food shop, laden with groceries, plastic bags straining round his fingers. Keys, wallet, bags smack on the kitchen countertop. He scans the room, ticking off tasks from the list in his head. He is drawn to the washed-out blue tiles that scream we own nothing we pay for. He can't abide the cold neglect of the room, but they are renters so nothing is to be done. Clara is on the couch where he left her. Cupboards slam open and shut as Mark puts the food away. He makes a deliberate spectacle of it, hoping to rouse Clara.

A mumble from the couch makes his ears prick: "What is it Clara?"

She takes her time to repeat herself, as if the act requires a great effort. "I want what they have." Then she buries her face into the cushions, embarrassed at her expression of desire.

Mark can only assume she's referring to the advert on the telly. It features a happy family. Three generations, in a large well-lit open plan kitchen, steam curling off dinner plates. A baby giggling. A baby. Everyone happy to be there. Everyone upright in a chair. They hug, they pass plates, they smile, they eat the food and relax back with a full-bellied sigh. The whole scene has an 'end of summer' glow to it.

And he wishes he could give her that. Mark rubs his forehead, exhaling, on the verge of tears. He wishes for sun. He wishes to take Clara away from here; to be able to give her any small thing she wants; to hold her hand and look into her eyes, feel the warmth he knows is locked away inside her. Tentatively he asks, not wanting to know, but hand clutching his heart, he asks: "And what exactly is it they have?"

Clara quietly releases a sigh. Her voice small, full of wanting, like a child.

"Dino nuggets."

# ALL MY FRIENDS ARE DEAD BY TREASA NEALON

Linda went missing after she moved in with Patrick.

Her loud cackles over a bottle of wine are now designated to muted sporadic five minute phone calls.

The night before the wedding she asked if she was making a mistake and when I told her yes she resented me for my honesty.

We buried Gillian when we were 21.

A man followed her home from work
and she didn't even have a chance to think no.
When I meet her, it is always by chance.
She looks through me,
like I am the ghost.

I wrote a eulogy for Mel, a long string of text messages she never answered because her heart was too broken. She is still finding the photos he took of her in the dark abscesses and hidden cracks. When strangers look at her as she passes by them on the street, she wonders what they have seen of her.

When I walk through the graveyard, I avoid reading my own epitaph and step carefully over the hyacinths. The gate to the car park has creaked open and hands are emerging from the soil, grasping for the sun.