

1: The Joshua Phenomenon by John Bennett

2: **Be Advised...** by John Bennett

4: They Have a Word by Caleb Brooks

5: **El Arbol de los Calzones** by Gary Every

6: **Mayor of the Town**by Michael L. Parker

20: Returning to the Line, Pacific Front, 1945 by Thomas Patterson

21: **Tip**

by Derek K. Richardson

27: **Cups**

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40: **Enemy of the World** by Gerald Zipper

Cover Art and Photograph by Christopher M First Class #25 collects stories and poetics meant to thrust your mind through some of your fellow humans' creative interpretations of the beautiful, the engaging, the thought-provoking and the gorgeous horrors and wonders of humanity. It is my hope that you will be exposed to an idea that stirs up and electrifies your

grey matter a bit.

Twenty-five is a secondary coming of age, a pivotal time of self-realization and a milestone in which a determination of our views, principles and purpose in life begin to solidify. The "life" of First Class is at that point. We're pretty sure that our purpose and mo-

tives are clear... but hell, one never knows when the train wreck or winning lottery ticket may cross our path... and those principles

are put to the test to either entrench or morph...

who had the will, courage and skill to get it out.

What you'll find here is the very best that flowed through my pobox over the last six months. Every one of these poems and short stories demands further contemplation upon completion. You will be treated to expert use of symbolism, imagery, and rich, well-fortified characters. For that, you can thank the terrific writers

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

 $\hbox{\it - Christopher M.}$

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