



[WORKING IN THE CREATIVE NONFICTION BUSINESS](#)

afterWORDS

TINY TRUTHS from winners of the daily #cnftweet contest

Can you tell a true story in a single tweet?

To join in the fun, follow us @cnfonline and tag your entries with #cnftweet.

Your micro-essay could appear in the next issue of CNF!

senior_moment_ She drove a busload of trench-coated, gin-in-a-paper-bag drunks to detox each morning at dawn. Keeps me sober, she said.
19 Oct 18

onlydavesmith A monthly chore to take bottles back for their deposit. Two men were ahead of me. The first, his face almost as worn as his clothes. The other, older, in a new Porsche jacket. He should give his bottles to the first guy, I thought. And then he did. And then, so did I.
9 Nov 18

BrianaBrakhage I quit my job with a shout, clamping my shears and brushes into my toolbox before fleeing. Drenched by rain and tears, I sit outside my apartment, terrified to tell my wife.
9 Sep 18

anitajc Hearing about my therapy, she invites me to the natural history museum. She understands, she tells me—she's gone through something similar. Our first exhibit is the stingrays. They swim laps below our feet. "Do you think they ever get sad?" we ask, simultaneously.
13 Nov 18

ConnieKuhns When she realized that it had been days since she had heard from her son (with no posts on social media), she poured herself a drink. Maybe he'll call if he sees this tweet, she thought.
3 Sep 18

smboutier He took a picture of his great grandson. He knew that by next week he wouldn't recognize it; but he wasn't ready to give up yet.
29 Aug 18

DangerousMere The soundscape of working in a library: fingers tap at keyboards, papers rustle, bored students sigh. In the background, Chopin is being practised, quite beautifully, on the library piano. In the foreground, unfortunately, a snotty nose rhythmically sniffs.
23 Sep 18

HopeDenney2 After Dad died, I looked through his possessions with fresh eyes. I noticed he'd quit buying coffee in bulk, as though he couldn't see himself being around to finish it. Every item after that was a matter of his foresight and my hindsight colliding.
9 Oct 18

OumhaniSofia I'd never been to a funeral, and assumed I had to wear black, but the only black pants I had had a hole in the crotch. Still stunned by the news, I used Scotch tape to close the hole. As we walked up the hill I heard it rip; crinkle, crinkle, crinkle.
25 Sep 18

kelseemari My grandfather paves roads and smells like asphalt and cigarettes. We don't speak, not really. He bought me a princess bike for my birthday and tell him I love him. But when the wheel breaks and the handlebar bruises my stomach, I blame him.
4 Oct 18

c_biondolillo Sure we'd screwed around on a business trip, and once at my place, but at work, I said, "No funny business." When he pushed me into a closet right next to my boss and stuck his hand up my skirt, what was I supposed to say then? Please don't, I whispered. Please. Don't.
27 Sep 18

ChrisNGuyen The chickadees, with their smart black caps, trim goatees and buff coloured vests, flit and dart in the garden. I watch and, for a while, forget how tired I am.
11 Oct 18

deborahcrooks You've slowed to a stop in the right lane so you can wave to her, standing in the open window, eyes light with a wan smile. Are you just leaving or just driving past? I can only see her face, and there's so much love in it I resist the temptation to lay on my horn.
19 Sep 18

ReneSaldanaJr Calling roll the first day of class, my professor called my name, adding, "Is that Hispanic?" "Mexican," I said. "Oh," he said, on tippy toes, "I know where they serve the best Mexican food. See me after class. I'll tell you about it later."
29 Oct 18

marisette_e The service for the victims of the Tree of Life shooting overflowed onto the lawn of Soldiers and Sailors Hall. Standing in the cold rain amongst the somber mourners, it occurred to us that our assembly could be vulnerable to another shooter. We stayed.
2 Nov 18



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