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The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway

Michael Bryant

I hold in my hands The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway, copyright 1960. The hardcover of the book feels rough like tree bark. I wonder, "if I sliced it down the middle would I be able to count the rings?" Opening the book, careful not to damage the delicate binding, a draft blows the pages and they race past one another like a leaf being blown across the sidewalk by the wind. The movement of the pages stirs up the familiar scent of an aged book. It smells sweet, as if someone spilled honey on it many years ago. Tree bark, leaves, and honey this book wishes it were free to return to its foundations in nature, much like its late and great author from whose body grows grass and flowers.