



VOYAGER

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Jinny Beyer Quilt Pattern

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ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8

You can't change the world
But you can change the facts
And when you change the facts
You change points of view
If you change points of view
You may change a vote
And when you change a vote
You may change the world

- DEPECHE MODE, "New Dress"



FROM MENTAL FLOSS On the importance of One Vote:

“United States House of Representatives elections occur more frequently (every two years) with more seats (435 since 1911, with 437 between 1959 and 1962) than any other electable federal office in the country. So it only makes sense there would be more close House calls than those for President, where Bush squeezed by Gore in Florida by a certified count of 537 in 2000, or the U.S Senate, where a two-vote margin led to a revote in a 1974 New Hampshire election. But only one time in the 20th or 21st century has a single vote made the difference in roughly 18,000 House elections: a 1910 contest for Buffalo New York’s congressional district, where Democrat Charles B. Smith snuck by incumbent De Alva S. Alexander by a single vote, 20,685 to 20,684 (although a later recount upped that winning margin slightly).”

From uspolitics.about.com:

Still, the odds of your one vote deciding a presidential election are still better than your odds of matching all six numbers of Powerball, which are smaller than 1 in 175 million.

What Really Happens in Close Elections

So what happens if an election really is decided by a single vote, or is at least pretty close? It’s taken out of the electorate’s hands.

Stephen J. Dubner and Steven D. Levitt, who wrote *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, pointed out in a 2005 column in *The New York Times* that extremely close elections are often settled not at the ballot box but in courtrooms.

Consider President George W. Bush’s narrow victory in 2000 over Democrat Al Gore, which ended up being decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

“It is true that the outcome of that election came down to a handful of voters; but their names were Kennedy, O’Connor, Rehnquist, Scalia and Thomas. And it was only the votes they cast while wearing their robes that mattered, not the ones they may have cast in their home precincts,” Dubner and Levitt wrote.

NICK CLONAN, THE PIZZA DUDE

By Joshua Folaron October 26, 2016

It started as just a typical Wednesday English class, when our professor Michelle Kearns announced that at 1:30 pm, the pizza dude would arrive. This was highly unexpected, and honestly undeserved, but that's what made us appreciate it even more.

For our in class assignment, we were to provide an impromptu interview to the pizza delivery guy. But to my surprise, this particular pizza dude was ready for any and all questions. And don't take this the wrong way, but I wasn't expecting this guy to be so well spoken and readily able to answer these questions without being overly nervous. But no, he was responding to the barrage of questions with well thought out answers. I even joked to Max that this guy seemed like a paid actor.

When asked about the strangest thing he's encountered on the job: "I mean, I've been invited into some lady's house and she was having a bachelorette party...and...you can guess what the cookies were shaped like."

The pizza dude elaborated.

"A lot of drunk people on game day, but a lot of people are more generous around now since its colder and closer to Christmas time."

When asked about his plans to ever quit...

"Unless something better comes up, it's hard to beat getting paid to just...you know...screw off and listen to music."

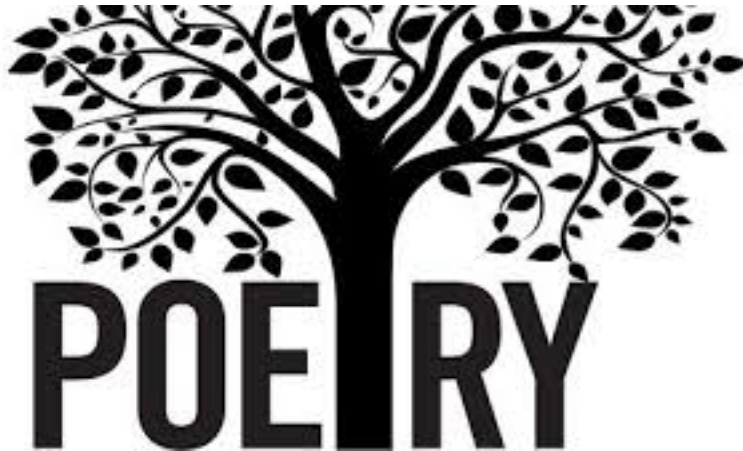
Mr. Clonan, our pizza dude, gave us a little tidbit of information about the occasional urgency at times.

"Two months ago I was speeding and got pulled over, doing about 30 over in a 35 but I didn't get a ticket, and the only reason was that the dude was like 'I don't mess with my food'."

Everyone found that quote to be pretty funny, causing an up roar of

laughter.

At the end of it all, we thanked the pizza dude for his compliance. The pizza was delicious and much appreciated. It was by far the best class so far, and for obvious reason.



No

by Janet McCann

When the visiting scholar tells me class
this is what the poem means,
I want to say no, it does not mean that.

There is nothing unreasonable about
his conclusions, but that is what's wrong:
they conclude. I feel doors slamming

down the hallway of his voice, and soon
he will leave us alone in the clean
swept corridor, watching the solemn paired

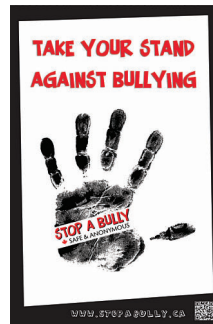
plaques in their frames, and I say
no, no, the poem spills out
of this hall, over the landscape,

scatters over the lawns and cars,
resonates in the hedges, and when I leave
after the crisp precise voice

answers the last question, after the punch
and cardboard cookies (students; friends), all
that will be left will be poem.

From Poems That Illuminate Emotions on Learning

PRIDE



HELP PRIDE! Club PAINT VILLA PURPLE.

The members of Pride! at Villa want you to help
raise awareness of bullying!

Spread Awareness. Help Stop Bullying by wearing
Purple on Tuesday November 15th.

““If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the
side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse,
and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your
neutrality.”

- **Bishop Desmond Tutu**



Laila Lalami

Wednesday, November 9, 2016



NEXT BABEL AUTHOR WEDNESDAY 11.15. 2017

See Joyce Kessel for tickets.

LAILA LALAMI is the author of the novels *Hope And Other Dangerous Pursuits*, which was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award; *Secret Son*, which was on the Orange Prize long list, and *The Moor's Account*, which won the American Book Award, the Arab American Book Award, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. It was on the Man Booker Prize long list and was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Her essays and opinion pieces have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Nation*, the *Guardian*, the *New York Times*, and in many anthologies. She is the recipient of a British Council Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship and is currently a professor of creative writing at the University of California Riverside.

THE MOOR' S ACCOUNT:

In this stunning work of historical fiction, Laila Lalami brings us the imagined memoirs of the first black explorer of America, a Moroccan slave whose testimony was left out of the official record.

In 1527, the conquistador Pánfilo de Narváez sailed from the port of Sanlúcar de Barrameda with a crew of six hundred men and nearly a hundred horses. His goal was to claim what is now the Gulf Coast of the United States for the Spanish crown and, in the process, become as wealthy and famous as Hernán Cortés.

But from the moment the Narváez expedition landed in Florida, it faced peril—navigational errors, disease, starvation, as well as resistance from indigenous tribes. Within a year there were only four survivors: the

expedition's treasurer, Cabeza de Vaca; a Spanish nobleman named Alonso del Castillo; a young explorer named Andrés Dorantes; and Dorantes's Moroccan slave, Mustafa al-Zamori, whom the other three Spaniards called Estebanico. These four survivors would go on to make a journey across America that would transform them from proud conquistadores to humble servants, from fearful outcasts to faith healers.

The Moor's Account brilliantly captures Estebanico's voice and vision, giving us an alternate narrative for this famed expedition. As this dramatic chronicle unfolds, we come to understand that, contrary to popular belief, black men played a significant part in New World exploration, and that Native American men and women were not merely silent witnesses to it. In Laila Lalami's deft hands, Estebanico's memoir illuminates the ways in which stories can transmigrate into history, even as storytelling can offer a chance at redemption and survival.

