

RED TRUCK REVIEW

A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN SOUTHERN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

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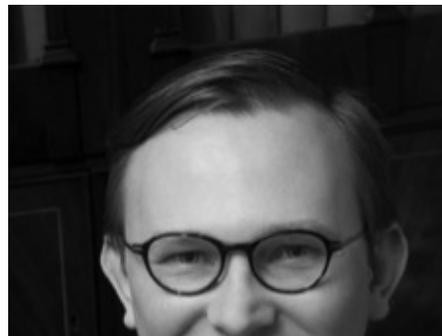
EDITORS

SUBMISSIONS

RED TRUCK
OUTREACH



Allen Mendenhall, J.D.



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3 Poems

Hunting

The deer, leaned over, frightens
at the sound of the crack,
the broken stick beneath his hoofs
or the hunter's feet.
Wagging his tongue in the moonlight,
shaking his fist at the sky,
the hunter loses choice and chance.
A moment later
it would have been gunfire:
the sound
either unreal or untrue
that cannot be heard
except by the living.
A crisp cool tug of air,
like the long drag of a cigarette,
wisps across the earth,
slaps him in his face,
reminds him
of the coming cancer.
He looks through the sights, down the barrel,
and fires at the nothing that's there
to kill the something that is,
the sum of his existence,
and ours:
hope and truth.

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Flash

Photograph in a Bar, Washington, D.C.

The guy in the foreground is Quint
my friend tells me
pointing to and holding
a photograph at arm's length.
Behind Quint, on the table
two Bud Light bottles sweat
in sticky puddles, framing
a fluorescent margarita.
In Quint's hand: a cell phone.
There's a purse on the table
no girl to claim it
just an empty barstool
and silhouettes
of nameless faces
filling dark spaces.

Service in St. Paul's

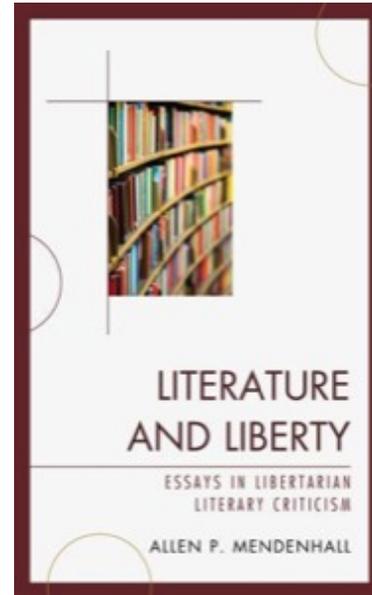
-London, 2003

Acrophobia turned
upside down:
fear floating away,
gravity deciding
to suddenly
give up.

There's a dome
overhead, a glowing
Jesus over the altar,
and too much space
to pray
comfortably.

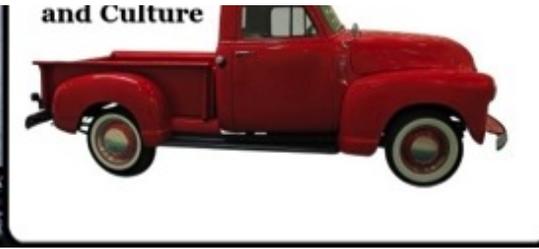
Imagination

among the scaffolding,
eye to eye with Joseph,
now falling facing up:
heaven does
not seem so high.



Allen Mendenhall is a writer, managing editor of [Southern Literary Review](#), staff attorney to Chief Justice Roy S. Moore of the Supreme Court of Alabama, adjunct professor at Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, and doctoral candidate in English at Auburn University. He is the author of [Literature and Liberty: Essays in Libertarian Literary Criticism](#) (Rowman and Littlefield/Lexington Books). He blogs at [The Literary Lawyer](#).





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