

# RED TRUCK REVIEW

A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN SOUTHERN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

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**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.

[Walter Echo-Hawk](#)  
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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**

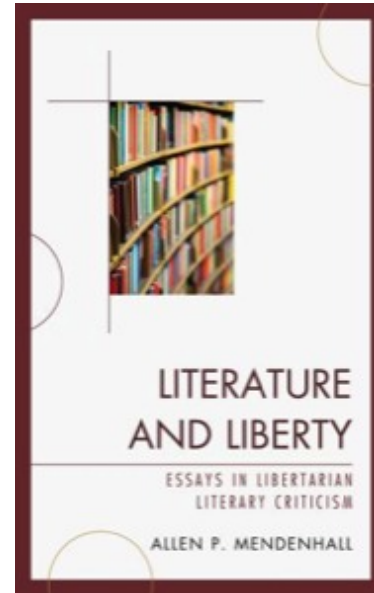
-London, 2003

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

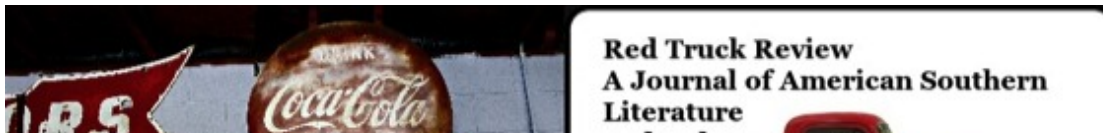
There's a dome  
overhead, a glowing  
Jesus over the altar,  
and too much space  
to pray  
comfortably.

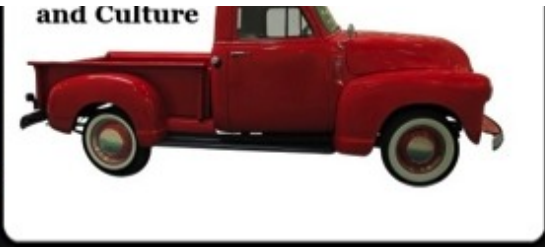
Imagination

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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