

OLD MONEY TAKES A HIT

By Daryl Scroggins

WHY WE LIKE IT: *A beautifully written smash up microfiction that brings with it one of the best titles ever. In less than 125 words this gifted writer creates an in media res reality with a high speed pulse. The last two lines are power poetry. (Font size is author's own.)*

Five stars

Old Money Takes a Hit

Sex in a car at 210 miles per hour. They figure it out in the slow motion that occurs only when opening a window would be fatal. Her face pressed against the windshield, she feels the car phase through a kind of shuddering. She tries not to think of how he already looks like his Treasury Secretary father. Teeth like that horn thing with the little piano keyboard on one side. Everything *out there* moving all cat bus. People walking along both sides of the road. They must be far apart from each other, but at speed they look like they are rushing to catch up with friends. The car's trembling turns constant. What a nice verb, she thinks. To mingle.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: *I usually start with a first line that comes out of nowhere, but of course its appearance is always conditioned by what I have been thinking about and what's going on. In this case I was irritated by an image of Steven Mnuchin's smiling face as he spoke of aims to reduce the size of pandemic aid. And maybe this is what brought to mind differences in the ways regular citizens and the super wealthy might deal with impending apocalypse. It seems likely that the rich would simply speed up their hedonism, as if their relentless and qualitatively bankrupt quest for more might reach an orgasmic eternity on the cusp of doom.*

Literary Influences: Sandra Cisneros, Lydia Davis, Junot Diaz, Dagoberto Gilb, Amy Hempel, Gordon Lish, Cormac McCarthy, Jayne Anne Phillips, E. Annie Proulx, Mark Richard, James Richardson, Leslie Marmon Silko.... I have limited myself to the living here, else I would not soon stop. But I must mention that I am still mourning the loss of Russell Edson.

AUTHOR'S BIO: Daryl Scroggins Lives in Marfa, Texas. He is the author of *This Is Not the Way We Came In*, a collection of flash fiction and a flash novel (Ravenna Press). Recently published and forthcoming work may be found in: *Aji*, *Blink-Ink*, *Crack the Spine*, *Fiction Southeast*, *Indicia*, *MacQueen's Quinterly*, *New Flash Fiction Review*, *Ppiggenn*, and *Star 82 Review*. One of his fictions has been included in *Best Microfiction 2020*.

