

Thomas J. Rush

With Father

I went deer hunting one weekend with my heavysset father, all black-rimmed glasses and buzz cut. Me, my father and two rifles. Before we left, I spent an overcast afternoon with my mother in thigh-high waterproof boots, showing her the slow running creek where my muskrat traps were planted. I drew her a paper map, x's marking the spots. I asked her to get up early in the morning to clear the pelts. I handed her a red monkey wrench. At thirteen, I had a difficult time explaining the wrench. I was worried that if she knew muskrats bit she would say no. I told her to shut her eyes, and wield it quickly, and everything would be okay. She said that was true of many things.

Thomas Jay Rush is the owner of a small internet-based software company, a fact he chooses to ignore, focusing instead on writing short fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry. Jay lives with his family in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.