

## Jesse Minkert

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### Member Plan 3

If you wish to receive supplemental pharmacy and/or outpatient surgical compensation, please click [HERE](#).

If you wish to apply for compensation due to a non-work-related loss of a digit, please click [HERE](#) for left hand, or [HERE](#) for right hand, or [HERE](#) for multiple digit loss regardless of hand. If the non-work-related event resulted in the loss of all digits, please click [HERE](#).

If your catastrophic event can be considered connected to conditions of stress, personal emotional trauma, dissolution of marital status, loss of custody of one or more children, identity theft, news programming, cyber bullying, sexual harassment, insensitive remarks and/or jokes by co-workers regarding your physical condition, genetic anomalies, or fashion sense, please click [HERE](#).

If the damaging event or events originate from combinations of two or more of the situations listed above, please click [HERE](#).

For a referral to a counselor for an emotional evaluation, please click [HERE](#).

For a referral to an attorney for potential litigation, please click [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to save your responses.

Click [HERE](#) to continue to the next screen.

## **Soup**

By this time they could only  
text each other. Nights were long and empty.  
Wind bashed trees against the windows.  
The hands on the kitchen clock moved  
stubbornly through their job.

Her message said that she had met  
some very kind people.  
She hadn't told them everything.  
He lied to her; he said he got a haircut,  
was working, eating healthy food,  
cutting back on beer and cigarettes.

He wouldn't have been surprised  
if the very kind people were inventions.  
He kept his phone in his overcoat,  
took it out to read her messages  
as he sipped his cup of salty soup.

## **Water Man**

A dented metal sheet  
beneath layers of paint  
in a corner of the depot.

The water man gestures  
coat billows in the dark;  
afterthoughts of stillness  
bond him to his skin.

The content of his years.  
clumps in his memory, expires  
like torn and faded coupons.

His glib asides, reduced to a stew  
of leather and cooked hair,  
return him to the corridor  
where once the river dried on his thumb.

**Jesse Minkert** lives in Seattle. In 2008, Wood Works Press published a letterpress collection of his microstories, *Shortness of Breath & Other Symptoms*. His work appears in *the Georgetown Review*, *the Chaffin Journal*, *the Minetta Review*, *Randomly Accessed Poetics*, *Confrontation*, *Paper Nautilus*, *Mount Hope*, *Floating Bridge Review*, and *Harpur Palate*.