

From  
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## "Writing is a solitary pursuit.

Perhaps for that reason, it seems to attract loners, introverts, and some spectacularly talented social misfits. Novelists can sit in front of a keyboard, alone with their imaginations, and tell truths about our lives and society that nonfiction can't quite capture. Reading is a solitary experience, too – Words on a page (or computer screen) come to life in the readers' imagination, which ensures that every reader has a unique experience.

What then, are we to think of a collaborative, multimedia form of storytelling? In "The Truth Lenders," Thuy-Dzuong Nguyen has stretched the form in creative ways: she's plumbed the imaginations of friends and colleagues; and incorporated audio recordings into the narrative.

The story itself is a subversive social commentary that fits into the category of science fiction only loosely, in a way that will be familiar to Kurt Vonnegut fans. The narrative includes a talking frog, a komodo dragon that's a temp worker at a news agency, and grippyfoot shoe attachments.

The audio is a unique and unexpected treat. Kevin Long, in particular, is a talented guitar player and vocalist. Isamu Jordan has a terrific combination of writing and performing skills. Thuy-Dzuong Nguyen shows her creative genius in pulling all of this together. This is a remarkable first effort, especially for a writer who is not a loner, introvert or social misfit."