Hit the Ground Running: A Novella and Other Stories

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Abstract
This creative thesis contains a collection of short stories divided into two parts. The first half, a novella entitled Clothes on a Line, consists of a series of linked vignettes that depict the life of a young, unnamed Appalachian girl and her relationship with her promiscuous mother. Throughout the work, the narrator struggles to create and come to terms with her identity as she experiences the adversities of sexual abuse, death, alcoholism, and the looming "secret" of her unknown father. The second half, Consumed and Other Stories, features several short pieces that, while not inter-related like those in the novella, are tied together because they deal in some way with the idea of being consumed, be it emotionally or physically. Often, the stories are grounded within the realm of possibility, but assume unexpected, even bizarre, dimensions.

Subject(s)
Short stories, American - Appalachian Region.

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’S‘Hit the ground running’ didn’t originate in WWII, as is often reported. The literal use of this phrase saw the light of day sometime toward the end of the 19th century in the USA. An early citation of it is found in a whimsical story which was syndicated in several newspapers, including The Evening News, 23rd April 1895, in a piece headed ‘King Of All The Liars’ (and should their readers have not got the picture from the text, they were kind enough to provide one): ‘I turned to run and figured to a dot when he shot. As he cracked loose I jumped way up in the air Hit the Ground Running book.