

Bullet Magazine

Editor: Keith Jeffrey

Web Address: <http://rocknrollnoir.com/>

What they Publish: Fiction

Submission Guidelines: Anything up to 8000 words, attached in a Word document or copied into the body of an email with your name and email address at the beginning and at the end. Submissions seem to be entirely electronic. If published, the author will be given a t-shirt and paid an individually negotiated fee, copyright will be retained by the author. Send to: info@rocknrollnoir.com

Description of Publication: Professional literary magazine, focusing on urban tales with noir sensibilities and attention paid to musical and criminal themes. Either published annually or just whenever they feel like it.

Prose per Issue: Averages 15-20 stories, although the amount increases with every issue. All prose.

Prose Reviews: *Pasty in Love* by *TK Dan*. A plain-spoken piece of somewhat minimal realism. The first person narrator tells a story of him and his mate hearing from a romantic interest that a child molester has moved into their neighborhood. Using some intimidating detective-novel methods they locate and kidnap the "Beast" and torture him, only to discover they've captured the wrong man, and then accidentally do much more damage than they'd planned.

The use of brutal, graphic imagery is the centerpiece for this story. The conversational tone of the narrative really brings in the reader to a situation that spins wildly out of control, and liberal use of dialogue keeps the whole piece moving. These elements all come together for a strong piece of crime drama, displaying all the best qualities of the genre.

The King is Dead by *Ray Banks*. Plain-spoken and realistic, this is the first person narrative of Brian, an Elvis impersonator from England whose love for The King that he's inherited from his dead mother brings him to Las Vegas to try to make it big as a tribute artist. But when he falls on hard times in the big city Brian winds up working for a celebrity escort service and along the way makes an enemy that, in the end, makes for a mighty fall from grace for The King.

Intensely personal narrative by Brian makes this story a rather strong character piece; the right amount of introspection makes for a compelling protagonist with a forceful voice. A keen eye for detail throughout the story creates an involved plot that is judiciously paced and emotionally jarring, so much so that the ending, though somewhat predictable, comes out no less satisfying.

Rating: 8 out of 10. Perhaps to be filed in the guilty pleasure category, I found this journal to be a refreshing break from the dense, affected literary prose that constitutes most of my experience with literary magazines. Not afraid to go low-brow, *Bullet* nonetheless has managed to collect complex, intricate writing and well-written stories that really move and are possessed of voice and unexpected depth. What's more, the selections come from a great mix of established, published authors, and a number of rank-amateurs, some of which are being published for the first time. In all, this seems like a vibrant magazine eager to help emerging authors and a worthwhile challenge for submissions.

E. Christopher Ott

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