

## **Carve Magazine**

By Jess D'Amico

Editor: Melvin Sterne

November 2005

www.carvezine.com

Publishes: Fiction only

Submission Guidelines: Under 8,500. Response time 2-3 months. Must include a submission form found on website. Emphasis on literary fiction. Not interested in genre fiction unless it has literary value. "Will not publish any piece . . . with the sole intent of offending others."

Description of Publication: Site design is fairly bland, with cover art only displayed on the front page. Easy navigation by issue and then by author.

Percentage of Prose: 10 to 12 pieces per issue, not given how many issue a year, but looks like every other month. So approximately 60 to 72 pieces published per year plus an anthology.

Prose Reviews:

*Sea Cure* by Peter Selgin

Plain spoken set in exotic locale and circumstances. First person narrative of a man on vacation in the Yucatan with his sick adopted brother. Clarke sees a pale woman with a parasol and becomes enamored of her while he wanders Mexico alone as his adopted brother, Lewis is sick with diarrhea.

There are several typos in this story, including no less than three spelling errors. The story is overwrought with an intent that never becomes clear. The real story doesn't start until about halfway through the piece, leaving the reader already wearied. The writing is extremely good, but the crass dialogue and sometimes crude examples, a monkey with flamboyant genitals, seem out of place for shock effect. The actual story of Clarke and the woman is intriguing with an ending equally befitting someone of Selgin's caliber as a prolific writer and Masters instructor of writing.

*Rome* by Lizzie Harwood

First person plain spoken in exotic locale dealing with domestic issues. A nanny bemuses on her life in Rome as opposed to caring for her sister in Brighton. The narrator spends her days alone on the Spanish Steps or going to the Vatican and thinks about taking care of her sister who was injured in a car accident.

A very brief view into a young woman's aimless life. This story has no real point and the end is very circular to the story. There is minimal scene available but considering the brief length of the story it is adequate. It would almost do well to be two separate stories, one on Rome, and one of the summer in Brighton, where her sister is recovering while cursing at the narrator and her mother.

Rating: 8 out of 10. Most of the writers have at least one publication or have Masters in writing. The writing is mostly good literary fiction. A good place for writing students to start.

## **Carve Magazine**

By Josh Alletto

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October 2005

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Description of Publication: The web site is great, though the different colored backgrounds and fonts can get a little annoying. They have tons of fiction in each issue. The pieces are well written and the site is well maintained. The Carver award is an annual award given by the magazine with cash prizes for the winners. They publish a print version of the online mag that you can subscribe to for free.

Percentage of Prose: 10 to 12 pieces per issue, not given how many issue a year, but looks like every other month. So approximately 60 to 72 pieces published per year plus an anthology.

Prose Reviews:

*Land Lady Letters by Marsh Rose.* Plain spoken realistic story in a domestic setting tells the story of a dissatisfied tenant and her apprehension toward her deceased landlord and his evasive wife. Six letters written by the tenant of a run down home to Zoe, the widow of the former landlord. The tenant, a forty something single woman who lives alone in a decaying house, pleads for a meeting with Zoe who seems to be forever eluding her.

What was so great about this story was that the letters were not just written as complaints about the house, but also as metaphors about the character writing them. The language was razor sharp and witty, but also sad and lonesome. Through these letters about a dieing house, we get a vision of a woman who is falling apart. Funny and well executed.

*Taking Care of the Boat by Paul Currion.* Plain spoken realistic story in a domestic setting about a fishing boat captain who suspects one of his crew members is stealing fuel from his boat. The story begins with the firing of said worker and spirals into a modest "who done it" type story with a message as the worker tries to frame the captain for assaulting him and insists he is innocent of the charges. Later we find out he is, and it was really the Captain's servant's brother. Ooooooo.

Well written story had a clear message at the end, but getting there was a struggle. It dragged and though I got it in the end, the journey was arduous and made you want to turn back. Getting there is half the battle? Well with this story it was more like 75% of it. The author is not without talent, but the story didn't deliver.

Rating: 7 out of 10. I thought Carve magazine was great website for fiction. I didn't like all of it but I'd have to say that everything I read was well written. They publish a ton of fiction each year which is great

and the Carver award, which I seem to have heard is pretty prestigious, is a great contest. I read the winners from last year and they were all really good. This looks like a great site to submit to. The only reasons I gave it a seven instead of a ten were that the font colors gave me a headache, and a lot of the writers seemed well established. Still a great site.