

## Orson Scott Card's InterGalactic Medicine Show

by Tom Mula

Editor: Orson Scott Card

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[www.intergalacticmedicineshow.com](http://www.intergalacticmedicineshow.com)

What They Publish: Sci-fi, Fantasy

Submission Guidelines: Submissions via internet, using the site's online submissions form. Sci-fi & fantasy, any length. Prefer well-developed milieus, strong characters, and clear, unaffected writing. (no gore-fests) Pays 6¢ a word up to \$500; this buys all rights to the story for a year (check submission guidelines).

Description of Publication: IMS is a brand new quarterly—its first issue is online now. The illustrations make it look like a kids' magazine, but I doubt that many kids will pony up \$2.50 to read it. It seems to want to publish SF's new voices—only one of the current authors (other than Card) has many publications.

Percent of Prose: Approx. 70% fiction per issue, approx. 30 stories per year.

Prose Reviews:

*Respite by Rachel Ann Dryden.* Plain-spoken sci-fi, told in third person. Ann and Edward are riding in a wagon towards the cliffs, where they'll be safe. Ann is pregnant and about to deliver; the desert they are riding through is full of eggs also about to hatch ravenous, razor-pincered flying crabs. Their wagon breaks an axle, the eggs hatch. Edward sacrifices his life for his wife and child.

A decent idea, and some good dialogue; and a lot of clumsy exposition. This story has an interesting premise, and a moral dilemma—is Edward a coward?

But the story clunks along gracelessly and could greatly benefit from an edit. Feels like good student work.

*Eviction Notice by Scott M. Roberts.* Third-person, plain-spoken fantasy; part ghost story, part Vietnam flashback. Rick killed his son Tommy during a morphine episode; the house he's about to be evicted from is haunted by the boy's ghost, or is it just Rick's DTs? Quincy Umble has bought the house—he's a pain-vampire [my term], who intends to possess the boy's soul. Rick has to save his dead son.

Again, good student work. Some very well-imagined dreams and flashbacks, and Rick's pain is well-depicted. But, when Quincy Umble appears, the story loses its path, to the point where it's hard to tell what happens at the end, in all the dream-imagery.

**Rating:** 9 out of 10. Most of the authors are new voices, some even first-timers from Card's Writers' Boot Camp. The writing is sometimes competent, sometimes merely good student work. Card seems to intend this to be a zine for new writers, and his name gives it some cachet. **And it pays! SUBMIT!**