

Iowa Review

By Josh Alletto

Fiction Editor: Hugh Ferrer

October 2005

Print Journal / www.iowareview.org

What They Publish: Publishes short fiction and poetry.

Submission Guidelines: Iowa Review accepts unsolicited manuscripts only during the months of September, October, and November. No online submissions.

Description: The Iowa review is a hefty volume of fiction and poetry. They publish tri-annually. The fiction is solid and diverse.

Percentage of Prose: Publishes ten to fifteen fiction stories an issue. (30 to 45 a year for those who hate math)

Prose Reviews:

Our Friend Max by Paula W. Peterson. Plain spoken realistic story in a domestic setting about the search for love. The first person narrator and her husband go to their friend Max's house for dinner. Max has been unlucky in love for years, and the woman is concerned that his latest relationship with a woman he met over the internet will end in heartbreak. Though she tries to save Max, it is in the end Max who saves her as they get high after her husband falls asleep and she realizes that Max's devoted perceptions of life and love are exactly what her life is lacking.

This story was extremely well conceived and executed. The language and style were interesting and engaging and the story itself was sad, funny and inspired.

Vigil by Dan Pope. Plain spoken realistic story in a domestic setting about a man's one unforgettable night with the "girl of his dreams." The first person narrator and his friend Nora get drunk after taking their first exam as law students. Greatly inebriated, they walk back to Nora's apartment where she undresses in front of him, then turns him down when he asks to kiss her. He is told to leave but doesn't and stays the entire night watching her sleep.

On the surface it's almost creepy to read about a man sitting on a woman's bedroom floor watching her sleep off a night of drinking. But the author handles it with such care that it never really feels vile, though maybe it is. A man sits for one night and admires what he can't have. The story was short but powerful.

Rating: 7 out of 10. I really like the Iowa Review. The fiction was enjoyable and that's about all you can ask for at the end of the day. They do accept unsolicited material and seem open to publishing new writers. However most of the authors in the issue I read (Vol. 35 Num 2) were submitted by authors who had been published before in author journals or who had had novels and anthologies of their own. Still, if you're gonna get wet, you might as well go swimming. (Or whatever tired old saying you prefer to convey the point I'm trying to make here.)