

## The Styles

By Jess D'Amico

Editor: Sophia Estantel, Amara Dante Verona (Poetry)

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Quarterly Bound journal. (Online @: [www.thestyles.org](http://www.thestyles.org))

Publishes: Prose Poems, verse, short-shorts, plays, CNF, and novel excerpts

Submission Guidelines: 6,000 words or under, no electronic submissions. No more than five short pieces or three long pieces at a time. Simultaneous submissions accepted. Include SASE and cover letter and/or biography appreciated. Rejection by the six-strip system.

Description: Minimalist design with thick cover. All the type appears in squares. It is not uncommon for pages to appear with only one line of print on them. Quirky but sometimes haughty, every issue is unique.

Percentage of Prose Published: A quarterly, The Styles publishes around 21 pieces per issue, with as many as three by one author. So around 80 pieces are published annually, but many are short-shorts.

### Prose Reviews:

*The Many Stages of Grief* by Stephen Graham Jones A plain-spoken script style realistic drama set in domestic setting. A man has a series of conversations after losing half his face. Jim eats out of his dog's bowl to please his son and the dog attacks him, taking his eye and half his face.

Every scenario contains mostly dialogue, with explanatory text only where needed. This piece is probably the most mainstream of fiction in this issue. Story follows a circular arc and begins with the decimation of Jim's face and ends with a basketball tournament where Jim loses his teeth and ends up on crutches. Even though there is all dialogue and the story is non-sequential, the reader never feels lost in the tussle. Although the reader may not be able to connect with Jim, the writing superbly keeps us up.

*Shush* by David Lunde An exotic dream story dealing with domestic issues. A short-short where a man finds himself among several people seated and when he attempts to speak they hush him.

This piece is no longer than a paragraph, but perfectly captures the place, action and leaves the reader feeling as if they too had just awoken from a half-remembered dream. The author, Lunde, boasts an impressive bio that leaves no doubt that he has indeed mastered at least this form.

Rating: 7 out of 10. This journal seems to be open enough to new writers if you have exactly the type of work they're looking for.