

anderbo

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Website: www.anderbo.com

What They Publish: Fiction, "Fact" (Flash), Poetry, Photography

Submission Guidelines: Fiction must be 3500 words or less. "Fact" must be 1500 words or less. All submissions should be emailed to editors@anderbo.com, and either pasted in the body or attached as .doc's or .rtf's.

Description of Publication: Clean, minimalist aesthetic directing the focus to their prolific presentation of prose. Contributors range from first-timer's to veterans boasting The New Yorker on their resumes, and the Masthead carries serious credentials of award-winning professors and publishers. Impressive.

Percentage of Prose Per Issue / Amount of Prose Published Annually: 62% Prose / ? – anderbo has existed since the summer of 05, but there is no given information on how many issues they publish annually.

Prose Reviews:

Monster by Myke Ripellino is a plain spoken, realistic story in a domestic setting, written in subjective first person. While Maddy was left by her boyfriend and with his daughter Sophie some time ago, she is still hopeful that he will return. Meanwhile her sister tries to convince her she should go out and meet someone else. Maddy is afraid of being a bad mother to an already abandoned daughter and thinks she should stay home with her. The morning Maddy and her sister talk, while Maddy and Sophie wait for a bus, Sophie runs back to the house to get her doll. When the bus comes, Maddy decides to get on alone and leave Sophie to be taken care of by her sister. The bus takes off with Sophie running to catch up. The bus stops, Sophie gets on and is sobbing. Maddy feels bad and keeps Sophie close from thereafter.

Monster is a good short that sets up the situation for its audience quickly through dialogue honest enough to not spell everything out. That is the story's greatest strength: simple and believable relationships and exchanges. The dramatic moment of Maddy's decision to either miss her bus or get on alone feels a bit short, but overall this is a story about parenting mistakes. In the end, there is room for forgiveness from the child.

On 3rd by Jeffrey Rubin is a plain spoken, realistic story in a domestic setting, written in the subjective first person. It begins with Joel comparing Greta, the plump woman in a bakery, to his tall thin wife, Jennifer. While Joel prides himself on being a faithful husband, he is inexplicably attracted to the woman in the bakery. One night Jennifer begins to ask about Joel's only other lover. Joel gets defensive and asks why she wants to know. Jennifer begins to prod him about having an affair, and even though she is almost insistant that he try another woman, the narrator is driven completely the other way and loses all interest in a possible affair with Greta.

This story has a good heart and a good writer who judiciously uses dialogue and monologue to tell the inner struggle of a man wanting to be a good and faithful husband, while being challenged to question what that really means. This story is heavier than it feels, which is also a pretty cool accomplishment by this New York Times journalist.

Rating: 6. Much of the work in this magazine is fantastic. Writer's experience and subtle skill are used to create well-crafted stories that reveal deeper meaning within plot lines, like slight of hand. There is also some mediocre stuff by newbies that many emerging writers could easily top.