

**Dacey Brown**

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Editor: Karen Ashburner (General Editor), Lydia Copeland (Fiction Editor)

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Web Address: <http://www.diceybrown.com>What They Publish: Poetry, Micro-Fiction, Fiction, Art and PhotographySubmission Guidelines: Submissions are only accepted via email. Simultaneous submissions are fine, but no previously published work. No mention of specific word count.Description of Publication: Well-designed, professional looking, quarterly online journal. Publishes a collective bound journal once a year.Prose Per Issue: *Extremely* varied. Anywhere from 4-25 pieces of prose per issue, including both fiction and micro-fiction. 2004 & 2005 seemed to be the most consistent. Magazine began in Spring 2002 with some seasonal overlapping.Prose Reviews:

*Bette Davis* by Lydia Copeland is a plainspoken, realistic story, told in a domestic setting. The subjective, first person narrator is laying on the floor of her apartment, contemplating the intricacies of her fledgling marriage. As her husband is getting ready to leave for school, she thinks back to all of the arguments they have had, and how seemingly simple the subject matter always seems to be. As her husband crosses the threshold of their doorway, the narrator kisses him lovingly, acknowledging to herself that despite everything, she truly loves him.

The use of model tellings, through several brief instances, creates the feeling of being present in another person's internal thoughts. The author utilizes a sense of intimacy which allows the reader the vantage point of laying on the floor with her, taking in the surroundings. By speaking directly to the husband as "you" throughout the piece, there is a confessional quality which heightens the internal dialogue of the narrator. This story was concise, but extremely nuanced.

*Personal Belongings* by L. Suzanne Stockman is a plainspoken, realistic story, told in a domestic setting. The first person narrator is struggling to help a little boy put on one of his shoes, so she can walk him to his father's office downtown. As the narrator, the boy's au pair, is walking with him, she recalls the time she has spent caring for him, and subsequently his parents. She realizes she is going to have to say goodbye, as the parents are separating and will no longer be needing her services.

This story, though it implemented moments of humor, relied strongly on a peppering of sentimentality. After reading this piece a few times over, the reader can unearth the trepidation of the narrator's uncertainty of leaving this family. The story accomplishes the task of revealing the delicate balance the separation has left both the au pair and the little boy in.

Rating: 5 out of 10. The contents were, on the whole, enjoyable and insightful. While most of the writers featured had been published repeatedly in both online and print journals, there seemed to be willing to publish the novices as well. The magazine seems to still be working out some minor kinks with their seasonal publication, resulting in some overlapping.

