

Fiction Attic

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Editor: Michelle Richmond

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Web Address: www.fictionattic.com

What they publish: Short Fiction, quotes, letter, 10 question interviews.

Submission Guidelines: Send entire story in text of email. Simultaneous submissions are encouraged.

Description of Publication: This is a clean, easy to read, online magazine. It is published quarterly.

Percentage of Prose per Issue: 60%

Prose Reviews:

Run Away by Jay Boyer is a plain spoken, realistic story in a domestic setting. It is told through a subjective, close-up 2nd person point of view. The story is about a mother explaining to her daughter that she did not call her an asshole. She did at one point call her a “shithead” though. The narrator also explains that she was once a very smart theorist. In the end the mother claims, it is not her fault she is overwhelmed, but she will not crack because she is the daughter’s rock.

The 2nd person point of view is very effective at showing the reader what the mother has gone through and it’s almost impossible for the reader not to hear their own mother speaking. It shows all the sides of the mother, how she wants to be strong but finds it a very hard thing to do. The story creates a powerful mother character as well as an impression of what parents go through to raise children.

Hong Kong Karma by Kevin Brown is a plain spoken, realistic story in a domestic setting. It is told through a subjective, close-up 1st person point of view. The story is about a son recalling his father’s life. The father was a servant who bowed at everyone he worked for. He came home and drank away his pain, sometimes beating his wife. The father’s proudest moment was smelling Bruce Lee. The son had to crawl to his father at the funeral, thus becoming the first person to bow before his father.

The story begins with a very strong hook: “The summer I realized girls didn’t have cooties, my father died of liver failure. I was not present at my father’s death, but figured it even, as he was not present for most of my life.” This really sets up the story and is used as a strong book-end later. The story also has strong images. Rather than seeing Bruce Lee, the father smells him; and the mother comments the father’s death is a failure, not a liver failure. The author also does a good job of tying in bowing throughout the piece, allowing it to create a central theme.

Rating: 7. The writing is high quality, intriguing prose. This sleek online magazine includes all levels of authors, from unpublished to those with several novels. The average percentage of prose somewhat limits an unpublished writer’s chances. It is definitely an online magazine any writer should be proud to be in.