

Swivel: The Nexus of Women and Wit

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Editor: Brangien Davis

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Web Address: <http://www.swivelmag.com>

What They Publish: Short Fiction, Essay, Memoir, Poetry, Art, Photography.

Submission Guidelines: 25-2500 word range. Only accept submissions via e-mail. No attachments, paste submissions into the body of an e-mail.

Description of Publication: Well-designed, professional looking, bi-annual literary magazine. A witty variety of prose, some poetry, and a peppering of art and photography.

Prose Per Issue: Approximately 10 pieces per issue and 20 annually.

Prose Reviews:

Hummingbird Moonshine by *Trinie Dalton* is a plainspoken, somewhat experimental story told in a domestic setting. The subjective first person narrator is a woman grappling with a summer of continuing bad luck. Convinced she is cursed, she goes to her local *Botanica* store to search for a mystical remedy. When the proprietor suggests she may have been dealt The Evil Eye, she goes to work with some remedies. It is only while filling her hummingbird feeders one afternoon that she realizes The Evil Eye has been put on her by an overly aggressive, nectar-deprived, female hummingbird.

The use of a model telling in this story heightens the humor in an otherwise conventional setting. Another strength in the storytelling comes from the use of colorful instances, drawn together by lists of items. The narrator bombards the reader with scenes of the ridiculous, nestled amongst the grounding scenery of ordinary life, making her pleasantly flawed and hilariously relatable.

I'm Hugging You With My Voice by *Lauren Weedman* is a plainspoken story, told in a domestic setting about a woman dealing with her role as a mother figure to her live-in boyfriend's fourteen-year-old son. After consistently walking on eggshells with the son, the narrator finally gets to spend an evening alone with him over a dinner of pizza. While talking, the narrator accidentally spits a piece of food on the boy and he bets her five bucks that he'll eat it. The bonding is well on its way with the five dollar reward, and as the son walks out of their bedroom that night, he farts and closes the door, causing the narrator to realize, "I know this smell. It's the smell of family."

The use of a model telling creates a strong brace for this touching and truly hysterical short story. The writer strikes a resonant chord by inserting tenderness with a judicious hand. By doing this, the story becomes well-rounded, instead of a series of slapstick instances bound by family. This piece was one of the most enjoyable of this issue

Rating: 7 out of 10. This rating is largely based on the quality and consistency of the writing displayed. In regards to publishing emerging, or "new" writers, there was only one showcased in this issue. The majority of contributors are well established and have well rooted publishing credentials. If anything, I would say this is a magazine to work towards.

Swivel

Christina Kabat

Editor: Brangien Davis

February 2006

Web Address: <http://www.swivelmag.com>

What they publish: Fiction, essays, poems, comics and artwork, all by women

Submission Guidelines: 25 to 2500 word range. Please paste your submission into the body of an e-mail, no attachments. No payment but free copy of the magazine. Send to submissions@swivelmag.com

Description of Publication: A biannual literary magazine. Clean, modern layout. Good balance of different forms. Contributors range from students to multi-published authors.

Percentage of Prose Per Issue / Amount of Prose Published Annually: 33%, about 16 or so annually

Prose Reviews:

First Draft by Shellie Zacharia is a plain spoken, realistic piece in a domestic setting. It tells of Roxanne, a grad student who quits her part-time job at a bakery to pursue writing full-time but can't seem to get anything down on the page she is happy with. She corresponds with her brother in Chicago and friends, describing her angst about relationships and her writing. She takes a job at a bookstore and hides manuscripts between books for unsuspecting patrons to find. It ends with a realization about art as beauty and not the perfection she has been seeking.

The story was powerful in its realistic portrayal of someone following their heart but losing sight along the way and an honest interpretation of a woman's voice and thoughts. Though told in the third person, I felt very close to Roxanne through the descriptions of her thoughts and actions. The episodic nature of the piece covers a good length of time without losing the reader.

I'm Hugging You With My Voice by Lauren Weedman is a plain spoken, realistic story in a domestic setting. It tells of a woman who moves in with her widower boyfriend and his teenage son as she attempts to connect with them both and establish the true feeling of family.

With good use of comedy to relate tragedy, Weedman had me simultaneously laughing at and pitying the main character. Socially inept at times, she makes thoughtless but accidental comments about belongings of her boyfriend's dead wife and forgets which airport to pick up his son. We get a well rounded character who isn't much unlike the fourteen-year-old she's trying desperately to connect with. At times she has to ask herself what would an adult do? A truly human and endearing story.

Rating: 7.5 out of 10. The story quality is high but so is the variety of content and style. A strong voice and point of view appear to be key and students are placed alongside published writers.