

The Moose & Pussy-Issue 3

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Web Address: www.themooseandpussy.com

What They Publish: Flash fiction, poetry, art

Submission Guidelines: Limit of 2,000 words. E-sub only, include your name, the title of your piece, and whether it is fiction, poetry or art in the subject line. Send each piece as an individual attachment as a .doc. Be sure to name the file lastname_firstname_title.doc. No simultaneous submissions. Multiple subs and previously published submissions allowed, be sure to include where it was previously published. See web site for more details.

Description of Publication: Print publication with back issues available online for free. This is an emerging magazine created by four students from Carleton University. It is self-described as looking for stories and poetry about sex, sexy art and art about sex, and sex in general. It is a literary and art magazine that is published in full color with a clean, easy to navigate website.

Prose Per Issue/Amount Published Annually: 90%, 3 issues per year

Prose Reviews

Trauma by Andy Sinclair is a plainspoken story in a domestic setting, told in the first person. The unnamed male narrator is a nurse at a hospital in a small town, and has been fooling around with his straight friend Ted since they were teenagers. They are 30 now. Ted, who identifies as a heterosexual, has an off-again, on-again relationship with a woman named Jen, who loves triathalons more than anything or anyone else. The narrator heads over to Ted's one night after Ted and Jen had a fight, and Jen left. Ted and the narrator fool around, and the narrator questions why he goes back to this man who talks about being with him in a relationship, but can't leave the hetero lifestyle. A few nights later, at work, the narrator gets a call from Ted. Ted and Jen are back together, Jen is moving in again. The narrator tells Ted not to call him at work anymore, refuses to have anything to do with Ted anymore. Jen calls a few days later and asks the narrator to come over for dinner. At dinner, the three of them drink a lot and smoke some pot and have a fun night. The next morning, the narrator hears Ted fucking Jen. They come out of the bedroom and tell him that they are trying to have a baby. Later, after they all go for a run, the narrator lies on the patio next to Ted and tells Ted that he is leaving, permanently. Ted murmurs that he wants to go with him, but the narrator knows that it isn't true.

This story uses beautiful language. The words are well chosen, and elicit empathy for the main character. There is a sadness that is reflected in the story, a feeling of unrequited love, like a wound. It's a very real story with believable characters and situations. Attention to concrete, specific detail is wonderful. For example: in the middle of the description of the sex, the narrator stops and reflects on what his therapist says about his relationship with Ted, "She keeps golf trophies and pictures of her kids on her desk and hot water in a pot next to a selection of teabags. Her golden lab curls up by the plant near her desk. Behind her, the window offers up a lovely view of the old town and all those expensive houses," and we get a good sense of what the therapist's office looks like even though it is a very brief interlude.

Japanese Love Hotels by Hauquan Chau is a plainspoken story in an exotic setting, told in the first person. Two friends are sitting in a Japanese pub at nine in the evening, having a drink and talking about sex. The unnamed

narrator is not from Japan, so he asks Hayato questions about bringing his girlfriend home or having sex in a regular motel room. Hayato tells him of his experiences with the love hotels.

This short piece is a nice look at how different culture views sex. It is well written with great details like, "... with dreams of mirrored ceilings, vibrating Kitty-chan beds and darkly-lit S&M rooms swirling in his head." It leads you to think about sex without actually really talking about sex. I got the sense that the narrator had a little bit of a crush on Hayato with the way he describes things that are almost sexually appealing about him. It's a good story that leaves just enough open to the imagination.

Rating: 8. This publication is in full color available in print and online, and has a focus on showcasing emerging writers.