Barcelona Review - Online Issue Cristina O'Brien

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Web Address: www.barcelonareview.com

What They Publish: Fiction, essay, articles, interviews, memoir, book reviews, quizzes.

Submission Guidelines: 4,500 word max. No simultaneous submissions, two submissions per year limit. Accepts unsolicited submissions year round. To e-mail a submission, use single space text, and put your submission and name in the subject bar. To mail a submission, double space the text and include a SASE or provide e-mail.

Description of Publication: Simple, modern layout that is fairly easy to navigate. Issues are available every two months in English, Spanish and Catalan. Requests edgy, boundary-pushing work.

Prose Per Issue: 50% prose. Eight fiction stories, two quizzes, four book reviews, one interview and one memoir.

Prose Reviews:

Tommy and the Tick by A. C. Hoff is story of magic realism in a domestic setting and written in third person. It is about two teenagers, Jess and Daniel, who hook up after a canoeing trip that ends when the sky rains snakes. Everyone in the small town is against the two being together because they fear Daniel, his unknown parentage, and his supposed supernatural powers. The relationship ends, and Jess is about to marry another man when Daniel returns and the two reunite. Jess's fiancé plots an act of revenge against the two, which leads to his death and Jess and Daniel's lasting happiness.

The use of animals and supernatural powers lends a fairytale-like quality to the story. The fantastic is told in matter-of-fact manner — the ending combines a room full of animals, a small child and a machine gun that ends with a typical anti-firearm moral. The story is a bit lengthy and the language formative.

The Satchel of Fanciful Happiness by G. K. Wuori is a plainspoken, third-person story set in a foreign land. Pete Heavy has moved to America from his unspecified home country to toil away at a sewer company and wait for the love of his life, Fanciful Happiness, to be able to join him in America. Through the story, Pete comments on his co-workers' blue-collar behavior and conversation in a dry, witty humor. When Pete is going to the bank one afternoon to deposit the money he has saved in order to pay Fanciful's way, three young girls try to mug him and Pete, after trying to be nice, eventually bets them up and deposits the money.

The images created of the rough, hard working men that constantly swear and talk about sex is very humorous when contrasted with Pete's simple, kind and innocent character. The voice is strong and natural, and tells a direct and heartfelt story without cliché.

Rating: 2. Barcelona Review only publishes one to two percent of submissions by emerging authors a year but claim to have two to three unknown authors per issue. Contributing authors are very accomplished in the literary field, many with novels and articles already in print, some with prestigious awards. I am very impressed that they put out so many issues as well as struggle with three different languages. But an emerging writer would be better off submitting to a less competitive magazine.