

Barcelona Review

Steve Tartaglione

Editor: Jill Adams

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Web Address: www.barcelonareview.com

What They Publish: Fiction, Nonfiction (articles, essays)

Submission Guidelines: One short story submission of no more than 4,500 words at a time. Previously submitted work not accepted. Only two submissions per year. May submit by e-mail or hard copy (which will not be returned). E-mailed document must be included as an attachment. Make sure to double-space your manuscript. Include international stamp or e-mail address with submission to aid in response. Articles and essays should, in some respect, deal with writing and books and must be under 3,000 words. Literary Criticism not accepted.

Description of Publication: Website is both artistic and professional. Vivid, colorful design does not distract from the writing (in simple, black-on-white text). Site is easily navigable. Content varies from story-to-story. Contributors are well accomplished. Journal published once every two months, except for special issues that may consist of up to four months of material.

Prose Per Issue: 80% prose; most recent included 8 short stories and 1 memoir

Prose Reviews:

Pyrrhic Perversion by T.J. Nelson is a plain-spoken, realistic story in a domestic setting. The main character is a subjective first person narrator who struggles with adapting to life after his family is displaced from their home due to a house fire. The narrator, a closet pyromaniac, is removed from school as a result of supposed mental illness, but finds that he has finally connected with his out-of-work father for the first time now that they are both stuck at home. He even feels that his therapy with Doctor Sweeting is going well and looks forward to once again attending school. But he worries that his father, Doctor Sweeting, and the insurance detectives who are keeping tabs on him from a distance, will find out that he has been the one setting fires throughout Sydney, though he still claims that his own house was an accident.

The use of 1st person point of view lends an intimate and introspective feel to the story. At first, the narrator seems like a character in need of some sympathy, and though that feeling slowly dissolves, it never fades completely. The language is biting and conversational; at the end, the reader discovers that the entire story has been a post on an Internet “pyro chat” forum. The detail, in both scenery and emotion, is drawn clearly and poignantly.

Washing Machine Guy by Des Dillon is a brief, plain-spoken story in a domestic setting, written in a close 1st person, subjective narrative. The story is about a couple that, in one day, finds that their washing machine is broken and that their cat has died. As they deal with unresponsive washing machine engineers, the couple is distracted from truly mourning the loss of their cat. It is a story about trying to simultaneously cope with multiple setbacks, while attempting to properly weigh the significance of each.

The first person narration establishes the tone effectively, intertwining, through personal reflection, humor, tension, regret, and sadness. Scenes are strengthened through the use of captivating and genuine dialogue. The language flows intimately, building a story that seems to escape the narrator’s lips with a conversational ease.

Rating: 4. As a whole, the Barcelona Review is a wonderful publication. The stories are diverse and well written. The website is clear and navigable, while still artistic. The contributors—from around the world (Spain, U.S.,

Scotland, Australia)—were, however, quite accomplished, publishing a wide range of stories and novels. For an emerging writer to be published would be rather difficult, though not impossible. The rating might even be lower (due to the experience of the contributors), if it were not for the fact that, in lieu of payment, some stories can be translated—at no charge—into Spanish. For this reason, the journal maintained an extra point. Overall, this is a fantastic publication, one that most writers would aspire to find their work in but not necessarily a first choice for emerging, unpublished writers.

Barcelona Review

Cristina O'Brien

Editor: Jill Adams

September 2007

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. Accept unsolicited submissions year round. To submit by e-mail, single space the text and put your submission and name in the subject. To submit by mail, double space the text and included a SASE or provide your e-mail address.**Description of Publication:** Simple modern layout, fairly easy to navigate. Issue every two months in English, Spanish and Catalan. Has a penchant for 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 magical realist story 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, 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 and has an odd combination to the ending, which 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 plain-spoken story set in a foreign land and told in third person. Pete Heavy has moved to America from his home country (unspecified) 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. 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 claims 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. An emerging writer would be better off submitting to a less competitive literary magazine.