

Blood Lotus – Online Literary Journal

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Editor: Stacia M. Fleegal, co-founder, Managing Editor and Poetry Editor

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Web Address: www.bloodlotus.org

What they publish: Fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry.

Submission Guidelines: Previously unpublished, non-offensive poetry submissions of 3-5 poems in free/formal verse or prose up to 20 pages. For art, send originally scanned artwork in .jpg format. All writing should be in the body of an email with specified editor denoted in subject line to bloodlotusjournal@gmail.com. Include a brief cover letter. Simultaneous submissions accepted when notified in initial email. Allow three months for reply.

Description of Publication: Content differs from story to story. Writers of all experience levels are welcome. This online journal has published three times a year since February 2006.

Percentage of Prose per Issue/Year: 32% per year

Prose Reviews:

July 30th, 2005 10:07am by K.J. Stevens is a brief, domestic narrative about a man with his cat watching the days go by reminiscing on his youth. He watches his lawn through his window and goes from thoughts of his father and a shop class he once attended. He remembers the Briggs and Stratton engine of the lawn mower his father introduced him to. The story ends with him imagining a passersby looking at his lawn and imaging the hard-working, well-kept man that must live beyond the immaculate yard.

Using flash fiction's conventional parade of brief images, the author uses the object of a lawnmower to transition the unnamed main character from his living room to his former summer job to the dynamics of the relationship he had with his shop teacher, the man who taught him about hard work and the simplicity of small town life. The choppy thought patterns and images of flash fiction are usually too brief, but this story was about more than objects in a room — it was about what it meant for him to be in that room and how he got there.

Wrong by Randall Brown is a close third-person story told with dream-like tone and imagery. It's about a husband accompanying his wife Helen to a group counseling session for parents who miscarried or had stillborn babies. These two had two stillborn twins, and the differences in their grieving cause strife in their marriage, saddening Helen and leaving him without the right words. By the end, Helen explains to everyone in the group how callous she feels he responded; they all take her side, but he feels he can do nothing right since their twins' death.

The story begins with a concrete scene in a couple's life: "The elevator lifted them into a collection of carpeted rooms." "They slipped into the two empty chairs waiting for them near the door, next to the single woman." Quickly the images become abstract. "Their twins reached for him, not her. They floated up away from the bedroom and toward the dark mist, the steam of coffee." Through outward expressions of trepidation, tears and running away, Helen's response to the death of her children were carried out. Through taunting daydreams and repetition of internal thought, her husband's difficulty with it was shown as well.

Rating: 7. Very good editing and selection of well organized stories. The authors were mostly older writers who have been published before. It doesn't seem like a lot of people outside of teachers and writing students at the graduate level know about it.