

## **Del Sol Review**

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Editor-In-Chief: Michael Neff (there are editors for each category)

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Web Address: [http://webdelsol.com/Del\\_Sol\\_Review](http://webdelsol.com/Del_Sol_Review)

What they Publish: Fiction, “quiction” (flash fiction), poetry, and creative nonfiction, with an emphasis on emerging writers

Submission Guidelines: Submit Fiction, flash fiction, and CNF from April 1 to July 30 via e-mail to Managing Editor Lorena Knight at [knight.lori@gmail.com](mailto:knight.lori@gmail.com). Your story should be in the body of the e-mail or attached as an .rtf file (rich text format), with DSR SUBMISSION as the subject. Submissions should be unique, interesting, and proofread. They give feedback within two weeks. See website for poetry guidelines.

Description of Publication: Sharp, professional online publication with easily accessible archives—back issues listed by category and author’s name on the home page—that designates one-fourth of publication titles to new voices. Simple, tasteful aesthetic with interesting new art each month. Published sporadically, usually annually or bi-annually.

Prose Per Issue: 54 percent of the titles were CNF, New Voices, Fiction, and Quiction in issue #14. The rest were poems.

### Prose Reviews:

*Reclaiming Savitri*, by Sheela Sukumaran (in the New Voices section) is a straightforward, realistic story in a domestic setting. Koushalya, a middle-aged woman, struggles to connect with her rebelling sixteen-year-old daughter who has recently sprouted breasts and pierced her nose. Meanwhile, Koushalya’s relationship with her husband, working to put their daughter through medical school against her desires (she wants to study botany), suffers as well—they only speak about their daughter and have not made love in four months. Koushalya finds meaning and happiness in secretly selling a family heirloom without telling her husband, in order to help her maidservant, Deoki, pay for her daughter’s dowry. Through this rebellious act, Koushalya finally feels able to relate to her daughter.

The subdued 1<sup>st</sup> person tone gives this story of connection and family a sense of familiarity and accessibility. Dialogue or Koushalya’s thoughts drive each short scene, packed with just enough imagery to ground the story in place—Sai Vilas, in India. Koushalya, having “rebelled” against her husband’s wishes, leaves the reader with a sense of subtle hope for her.

*Finding the Yellow Brick Road* by Alabama Brown is a short 3<sup>rd</sup> person domestic narrative about a woman following her husband’s Pentagon job around the US, this time landing in Kansas. She’s tried everything to save their marriage, according to the storyteller who remains very close to the woman’s internal thoughts, and “Kansas was supposed to save her, and her husband.” She steps out of her car toward a rural farmhouse, evocative of a scene from *The Wizard of Oz*. Closing her eyes, walking on the yellow brick road, she imagines herself escaping the desolate Kansas landscape, which serves as a metaphor for her sad life with her husband.

The third person telling evokes an escapist, fairytale world grounded in details like the contents of the nameless woman’s purse (Xanax, Klonopin, Zoloft, Benedryl, Aspirin, and brandy) and the feeling of the asphalt

road on her feet, reminding her of her roots. This woman's reality is almost convincing in spite of—perhaps because of—its lack of clarity. The reader is left with a hint that this is perhaps the end of the woman's sanity.

**Rating:** 7. Del Sol Review is a straightforward, professional-looking online journal out of Washington, D.C. that has no set dates or publication, claiming to publish a new issue “only when we deem it ready.” Issues come out infrequently—yearly or bi-annually. Del Sol contains senior undergraduate or grad-student level writing, with few to no editorial errors. They dedicate an entire section to New Voices, which is promising for emerging writers. No payment for publication.