Anderbo.com Reviewer: Jeffrey Brennan

Editor: June Eding March 2007

Website: www.anderbo.com

What They Publish: Fiction, "Fact" (Flash), Poetry, Photography

Submission Guidelines: Fiction must be 3,500 words or fewer. "Fact" must be shorter than 1,500 words. All submissions should be emailed to editors@anderbo.com and either pasted to the body or attached as a .doc or .rtf file.

Description of Publication: Clean, minimalist aesthetic directing the focus to their prolific presentation of prose. Contributors range from first-timers to veterans boasting "The New Yorker" on their resumes, and the masthead carries serious credentials of award-winning professors and publishers. Impressive.

Percentage of Prose Per Issue / Amount of Prose Published Annually: 62% Prose / ? – There is no given information as to how long anderbo has been around or how many issues they publish annually.

Prose Reviews:

Monster by Myke Ripellino is a plain-spoken realistic story, in a domestic setting, written in the subjective first-person. While Maddy has been left by her boyfriend and left with his daughter Sophie some time ago, she is still hopeful that he will return. Meanwhile, her sister tries to convince her that she should go out and meet someone else. Maddy is afraid of being a bad mother to an already abandoned daughter and thinks she should stay home with her. That morning, while Maddy and Sophie wait for a bus, Sophie runs back to the house to get her doll. When the bus comes, Maddy decides to get on alone and leave Sophie to be taken care of by her sister. The bus takes off with Sophie running to catch up. The bus stops, Sophie gets on and is sobbing. Maddy feels bad and keeps Sophie close from thereafter.

Monster is a good short that sets up the situation for its audience quickly through dialogue that is honest enough to not spell everything out. I guess that is the story's greatest strength: simple and believable relationships and exchanges. I do think that the dramatic moment of Maddy's decision to either miss her bus or get on alone feels a bit short, but overall this is a story about parenting mistakes. In the end, there is room for forgiveness from the child.

On 3rd by Jeffrey Rubin is a plain-spoken realistic story, in a domestic setting, written in the subjective first-person. It begins with Joel comparing Greta, the plump woman in a bakery, to his tall thin wife, Jennifer. While Joel prides himself on being a faithful husband, he is inexplicably attracted to the woman in the bakery. One night Jennifer begins to ask about Joel's only other lover. Joel gets defensive and asks why she wants to know. Jennifer begins to prod him about having an affair, and even though she is almost insistant that he try another woman, the narrator is driven completely the other way and loses all interest in a possible affair with Greta.

This story has a good heart and a good writer who judiciously uses dialogue and monologue to tell the inner struggle of a man wanting to be a good and faithful husband, and being challenged to question what that really means. I guess this story is heavier than it feels, which is also a pretty cool accomplishment by this "New York Times" journalist.

Publication Rating: 4. Much of the work in this magazine was fantastic; well crafted by experience with subtle skill, used to reveal deeper meaning within plot lines, like sleight of hand. There was also some mediocre stuff by newbies that I think I could top.

Anderbo.com Reviewer: Katelyn Stanek

Editor: June Eding, Fiction Editor October 2006

Web Address: www.anderbo.com

What They Publish: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry

Submission Guidelines: This publication accepts short stories up to 3,500 words and non-fiction up to 1,500 words. Send submissions via e-mail, either in the body of the text or as an attachment, to editors@anderbo.com.

Description of Magazine: A straightforward, easily-navigated online literary magazine publishing a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction.

Prose Per Issue: Approximately 15 pieces of fiction are published in each edition.

Prose Reviews:

The Rules of Urban Living by Kara Janeczko is a close third-person story told in a domestic setting. It centers on Lorraine and Simon, a couple who live together in a cramped New York City apartment. The narrator tells of Lorraine's internal struggles with her relationship with Simon and their present living conditions, which leave her fearing her neighbors' prying eyes. As the story moves forward, Lorraine becomes more and more unsure of her life, beginning to lose interest in Simon as she fantasizes about one of her many neighbors.

Although a third-person story, *The Rules of Urban Living* is told from Lorraine's point of view, giving it a sense of intimacy and even voyeurism. There is no one "event" around which the story revolves; rather, it is a telling of one woman's numerous reservations and worries regarding her life as a young and unestablished woman.

The Night That Gail Left Early by Jeff Clinkenbeard is a darkly humorous third-person story told in a domestic setting. It tells the story of Gail, an alcoholic who's left an Alcoholic's Anonymous meeting to run to the liquor store instead. The story follows her in melodramatic form as she speaks to her husband on her cell phone, lying about her whereabouts as she internally worries about the store closing early and being caught by her friends.

The story seems to be intentionally stereotypical – one line describes a liquor store as "Packed with lucky people who could drink; drink and live" – and relies on worn-out plot twists that lead the reader to believe it will end "happily," only to subvert all of those preconceived ideas at the last minute.

Rating: 8 out of 10. Anderbo.com is a simple but well-produced publication that's staffed by editors who are committed to their work and their magazine. With a host of interesting and unconventional stories written primarily by emerging writers, it provides newer writers with excellent opportunities.