

## **DOGZPLOT**

Editor: Barry Graham

Web Address: [www.dogzplot.com](http://www.dogzplot.com)

What they Publish: Fiction, creative nonfiction, essays, artwork, photography, art, interviews, and essays on the writing life.

Submission Guidelines: Submissions are to be sent by e-mail. Flash fiction must be 200 words or more, while fiction must be 610 words or more. The poetry should be short and precise, and only three pieces should be sent.

Nonfiction, essays, art, and photography have no guidelines.

Description of Publication: Fairly simple online magazine, published quarterly. The main page provides the last completed quarterly issue. A link is provided to a blog that publishes around eight flash fiction pieces bi-weekly. The editing, presentation, and over-all look of the quarterly is simple. No frills, just solid fiction.

Prose per Issue: Of roughly thirty-five pieces of work, approximately 25 percent of the last issue was fiction, 20 percent interviews, and 10 percent was made up of essays and nonfiction.

### Prose Reviews:

*Birth* by Christina Kapp is a plainspoken story in a rural setting. The first-person narrator is a pregnant young woman walking through an overgrown field as she's going into labor. As she remembers her parents' reactions to the pregnancy and their suggestion to abort, she collapses at a tree. The story ends with her both her own screams and the screams of her newborn drowning out the approaching ambulance.

The author grabs the reader by the throat from the beginning and throughout with telling quotations that the narrator is recalling. "We can help you put this behind you." By simply dropping them throughout the narrative, they each give a sense of the urgency of the pregnancy and the disapproval and frustration of the narrator's parents. Sensory images are given life and act almost as a second character in the story. Her strong metaphors, as well, are a pleasure to read. The author often hints at things, allowing the readers to put two and two together.

*Brutes* by B.J. Hollars is plainspoken story that teeters on the brink of magical realism in an exotic setting. The third-person narrative follows a group of children as they stomp through a swamp to an old bridge in order to dismantle it. Animal-like and wild, the children descend on the support beams to go about their destruction. As the story ends, the children accomplish their goal with no hesitation or question.

The short story seems almost hallucinatory as it paints these children as almost savagely focused on destroying the bridge. Hollars describes their approach in haunting metaphor, which gives the whole piece an eerie tone. Hollars' characters act like savages; they "howled at the moonlight and smashed fistfuls of fireflies before rubbing the glow on their teeth, smiling." In so little space, the author manages to create a striking hoard of characters and a sense of dread as they go about their business.

Rating: 8. The pieces are haunting and interesting, while the Web site is simple but not very attractive. While the full issue is only published quarterly, the bi-weekly flash fiction blog allows a current of steady, strong fiction.

Mike Mullen

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