Front Porch Reviewer: Stephanie Cudo

Editor: Tom Grimes March 2007

Web Address: www.frontporchjournal.com

What They Publish: Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, book reviews, and audio and video interviews

Submission Guidelines: Electronic submissions only, but check the Web site for reading periods. Simultaneous submissions accepted as long as you promptly inform the editors if the work is accepted elsewhere. Work must be unpublished. For fiction or nonfiction, send an email to specific email address, with a short cover letter in the body of the email. Submission should be a Word or Rich Text Format document attachment. Include name, address, phone number, email address, and title of the story on the first page of the submission. Send one story at a time.

Description of Publication: Very well-organized site. Clean and clear; easy to read. Published biannually.

Prose Per Issue: 40% prose; five prose, both fiction and non-fiction, eight poems, and six book reviews in the current issue

Prose Reviews:

Shrine by Judy Wilson is a plain-spoken story set in a domestic setting. It is told from a first-person point-of-view. This story is about a real estate seller who is trying to sell a house in a small neighborhood to a young business woman. While trying to break her in, she takes her to a Wal-Mart, where she laughs at the shrine created in honor of the deceased senior citizen who worked there. She takes her back into the car, gets high, and picks up her brother, being a bit hard on the young woman, making her cry at the end.

The voice of the narrator/ main character is evident throughout the story. Her goal isn't very clear until the middle of the story, when the young lady starts to get adversarial. But because she is disrespectful to the shrine and, as we learn through the opinion of the narrator, she is also not quite respectful of the town itself or the people in it. You want the narrator to win in their little fight to break her, or rather to shock her, so when she does cry at the end, you are left feeling the same way the narrator did in the story.

Good Figure, Beautiful Voice by Zdravka Evtimova is a plain-spoken story set in a domestic setting, told through a first-person point-of-view. It is the story about a math teacher whom her students hate, but she doesn't fear them, or the silence and seclusion that she lives in. They hate her because she catches them cheating better than most teachers, and stops them every chance she gets. When one of her students fights back, so does she. He has two of his friends come with him and follow her on her walk home, hitting on her. She fights back by accepting the eldest's advances even though she hates all three of them, and he betrays the student—her revenge.

The description of the setting coincides with the narrator and her character. They are strong, especially about the fog and the isolation she lives in. Through her thoughts we discover that she was raised in such silence, so she doesn't fear it, but embraces it. She falters during the attacks from the student and his friends, but is able to gather herself up and fight back. It is a story about an independent woman fighting her own battles.

Rating: 7. The writing in this journal has prominent voices, though most of the fiction in the magazine was in first person perspective. The stories usually take place in small town settings, which pulled me into them because I enjoy that kind of feel to stories. The experience of some of the contributors is quite extensive however, but it's not limited to them. It would be a bit of an effort to get published, but could be done by an emerging writer.