

## **Another Chicago Magazine**

Issue 49

Kevin Kane

Winter, 2010

Editors: Jacob Knabb, Michael Meinhardt, and Joris Soedling

Web Address: [www.anotherchicagomagazine.net](http://www.anotherchicagomagazine.net) or [www.anotherchicagomagazine.org](http://www.anotherchicagomagazine.org)

What they publish: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and reviews from established and especially emerging writers with the focus on Illinois-based writers.

Submission Guidelines: The guidelines include 15-20 pages for short stories or novel excerpts and no more than 20 pages for creative nonfiction. Themes for issues may also allow for shorter pieces such as flash fiction to be published. Genres not listed such as reviews and interviews are also accepted with no specifications given.

Submissions should be mailed with SASE to address listed on Web site.

Description of Publication: a sometimes bi-annual print publication featuring work by established authors while keeping a focus on emerging voices in poetry and prose. The Web site remains at least a year out of date but the newest print magazine offers a rich and varied sample of voices. The theme involves the medieval “Bestiarum Vocabulum” and features over a dozen authors tackling a particular beast through flash fiction.

Prose Per Issue/Amount of Published Annually: 47% prose. 72 stories published annually depending on theme and run.

### Prose Reviews:

*Where Everyone Gets Laid* by Amber Drea is a plainspoken story in a domestic setting. The story is told by a subjective third person. Seven-year-old Pearl mistakes the sounds of her mother and her mother’s boyfriend having sex for fighting. Lacking any parental influence, Pearl takes off with her neighbor friend, Dimples, to a nearby beach. They find a purse with a diary containing information pushing Pearl toward an awakening of knowledge about sex. Pearl decides to go “all the way” with Dimples, but his mother catches them naked in his bed. She runs home but her mother, just waking up, fails to realize or chastise.

For such a short story, Drea succeeds in capturing the innocence of Pearl even while placing her in multiple situations that seem to rush her aging process even from the first sentence: “The first time Pearl heard her mom and Mark in the morning, she thought they were fighting.” Drea continues this throughout such as when Pearl doesn’t realize why a party of grownups laugh when she points out that a nude drawing by her uncle failed to include pubic hair. This great contrast of pieced-together knowledge versus overall ignorance heightens the story beyond simply a coming of age tale because paradoxically Pearl both succeeds and fails to come of age. The writing as well keeps up the pace and content of the events such as the slowed down, detail-heavy moment when Pearl and Dimples hide naked beneath his covers. Though the story lacks a fleshed-out setting, the universality of the theme coupled with the few pop culture references peppered throughout – Strawberry Shortcake and Peter Gabriel for instance – work better than if the setting specifically referenced a certain town in Northern Illinois.

Rating: 7. Judging by the contributor information, the magazine takes its mission to provide a place for emerging writers seriously. Though they do publish established authors, many of the contributors do not have multiple novels or books out. Instead, they are MFA graduates attempting to spread their work. Illinois-based writers also enjoy a

slight edge as their focus leans toward local writers. The quality both of the writing and the look of the journal itself contribute to a higher rating. The willingness to take chances on more experimental themes also proves fresh and interesting.