

## **American Short Fiction**

Reviewer: Stephanie Cudo

Editor: Stacey Swann

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Web Address: [www.amerianshortfiction.org](http://www.amerianshortfiction.org)

What They Publish: Fiction

Submission Guidelines: Electronic submissions are not accepted. Submission must be original and unpublished; send one at a time. Accepted year-round. There are no set rules for content and length, though you should be familiar with previously published work in the magazine and your submission should be your best work. Send work that is typed and double spaced, with author's name, address, phone number, and word count, and page numbers throughout. Must include a SASE.

Description of Publication: Professional-looking magazine with submitted cover art. High standard content. Published quarterly.

Prose Per Issue: 100% prose; short stories, novella and novel excerpts.

Prose Reviews:

*The International Shop of Coffins: Simon Peter* by Tiphonie Yanique is a plain-spoken, realistic novella excerpt set in a domestic setting. It is told through a subjective, third-person omniscience. The story revolves around a coffin shop. This excerpt focuses on a well-known neighborhood priest and his background story, which involves him training to be a carpenter but waking up in bed with another of the trainees by accident. He is then sent off to a Catholic boarding school where he decides to become a priest. This explains why he visits the coffin shop, because he fears getting close to someone else again.

The third-person omniscience does not take attention away from the main focus of the priest and the exploration of his past. The descriptions used for how he feels inside about his past build his character from the inside out, giving you a well-rounded character. The word choices used in the descriptions gives you a strong sense of them.

*Nobody Ever Gets Lost* by Jess Row is a plain spoken, realistic, almost minimalist story set in a domestic setting. It is written in a subjective, third-person omniscient, but insightful of the main character point of view. The story follows the action of the main character, unnamed, on a chase to figure out what really happened behind the story of two girls being killed in an elevator accident. As she investigates, there are random insets of her thoughts or past about her deceased boyfriend or some random story that explores her character. She finds out that it was not a murder posed as an accident, but the fooling stupidity of children.

The story does not focus on the physical features of the main character, but more on the internal features of her. It is never said what she looks like. All of her character is described through random facts about her past or her thoughts and feelings. But everything else is described through how it looks, physically, to her. It gives the story an interesting point of view to follow, making you curious as to what happened with her deceased boyfriend, how he died and what life was like with him.

Rating: 4. The high-quality prose in this magazine had a pull on me. The magazine itself is well put together, and the styling on the inside is plain but elegant in its simplicity, giving it a personal feel on the reader. But the experience

of the contributors and the quality of work suggests that it would be quite an effort for an emerging writer to get published. I would consider it a great accomplishment to be chosen for publication.