

Another Chicago Magazine

Editor: Barry Silesky

Web Address: www.anotherchicagomag.com

What They Publish: Fiction, poetry, reviews, translations and creative non-fiction

Submission Guidelines: This publication accepts both solicited and non-solicited submissions between February 1 and August 31. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission; simultaneous submissions are accepted only by request from the editors. Stories published are typically between 100 and 7,500 words. Send submissions to: Another Chicago Magazine, 3709 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60613.

Description of Magazine: A professional-looking literary magazine printing a spectrum of work, from the experimental to the traditional. Publishes bi-annually.

Prose Per Issue: Approximately 80% of the magazine is devoted to prose, with the remaining 20% focusing on poetry and essays.

Prose Reviews:

Odessa in the Floodlights by Quang Huynh is an intimate first-person story with an experimental feel. The story is told through the eyes of an unnamed narrator, a coroner who develops an infatuation with a woman's corpse. The narrator comes to understand (or believe he understands) the circumstances that led to the woman dying and rotting in a field for three weeks. Her gradual acceptance of her mortality and the ways in which she copes with it — riding a train for hours, swimming in a lake to feel the water in her lungs — form the bulk of the story's plot, with the narrator interjecting on occasion to reveal his feelings. The story ends with the narrator recounting the details of the woman's death, which takes place in a pasture and which the narrator believes must have been peaceful.

The story's use of metaphor and simile give it a distinct poetic feel. Relying heavily on the narrator's feelings regarding the corpse, *Odessa in the Floodlights* has a close, intimate feel that make it an interesting and engaging story.

When the Neighbors Love You by Ellen Litman is a second-person coming-of-age story that takes place in a domestic setting. Despite its unusual narration, it is a fairly traditional piece that recounts a girl ("You" or "Anya," a 17-year-old living in Pittsburgh) who believes she wants nothing more than to attend Boston University, although her parents want her to attend University of Pittsburgh, where the tuition is more affordable. As she comes to realize what is at stake in trying to go to B.U. (the loss of a boyfriend, friendships, her home and neighbors) she struggles to decide what to do. Eventually, she decides to stay in Pittsburgh to attend school so as to be close to what she knows, but not before an agonizing week spent considering her options.

The story is held together with a series of vignettes describing Anya's entire life, from the time she was a little girl reading in Russian and English, to the present day, giving the reader an excellent grasp on her character and making her both understandable and sympathetic. *When the Neighbors Love You* depends heavily (and successfully) on its characters to tell their own stories and to lead the reader through the plot.

Rating: 4 out of 10. *Another Chicago Magazine* is a high-caliber, long-running magazine publishing volumes of excellent prose. Some of its contributors had very impressive publication credits and literary credentials, but some of the writers were still "emerging" — not first-time authors, but close to it.

Reviewer: Katelyn Stanek

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