

Avery Anthology (Issue 4)

Max Wentzel

Editors-in-Chief: Emma Straub, Adam Koehler, Stephanie Fiorelli.

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What They Publish: Fiction.

Submission Guidelines: Unpublished stories under 5,000 words. E-mail submissions only, as .doc attachment with contact information at the top of the first page.

Description of Publication: Attractive, small, sleek bound journal published bi-annually. Each story is accompanied by artwork.

Prose per Issue: Each issue is made entirely of prose. Issue 4 has 13 stories.

Prose Reviews:

Adoption by Hannah Tinti is a plainspoken, magical realist story in a domestic setting. The unnamed narrator is a lonely woman approaching the age of forty who feels pressured by her mother into having a child. She goes to the adoption agency and the caseworker shows her Fred, a forty-year-old who's been rejected all his life. Reluctantly, she adopts him. Fred is bitter and the narrator is unsure whether she wants to keep him. She home schools him and starts to feel close to Fred. At the end, Fred calls her *mommy* and she opens her covers to him so he can sleep with her.

The story works on an absurd level, with an adult man needing to be adopted. But Tinti's sharp dialogue and deft descriptions ("his stomach falling over the belt loops of his corduroys") of both characters make the plot easy to accept.

I'm With Stupid by Kevin Canty is a plainspoken, realistic story in an exotic setting. Gillian, recently separated from her husband, is in France to speak at an academic conference. While waiting for her panel to begin, Gillian meets Steindor, a drunk Icelander. She walks the city with him, and eventually warms up to his advances on the beach. She nearly misses her panel, but gets there in time to answer a few questions. Steindor meets her there and takes her to a fort on the beach. At the end, Gillian, trapped alone on the fort's island by the heavy tides, waves to Steindor on the beach and waits for the tide to retreat.

A lot happens in a short time. Canty uses Gillian's internal thoughts perfectly to show the right amount of insight into her character without slowing down the story. Steindor's dialogue ("I am not running a race or riding a cow. I am not an American") is quick, original, and is used expertly to reveal his personality.

Rating: 7. *Avery* is a fairly new magazine devoted entirely to prose. While some of the contributors have been previously published, two of them had never been published before. Emerging writers would likely have a good shot at getting in print.