

Inkwell Journal (Fall 2006)

Reviewer: Andrew Graf

Editor: Christine Adler

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Web Address: www.inkwelljournal.org

What They Publish: Unsolicited poetry, prose, and artwork.

Submission Guidelines: Standard guidelines apply. Stories should be under 5,000 words and previously unpublished. Mail submissions to address provided on Web site during the reading period, Aug. 1 to Nov. 30

Description of Publication: Inkwell is a semi-annual publication seeking to unveil emerging writers through a high quality forum of literature, poetry, and art. The review can be ordered online for \$8 an issue.

Percentage of Prose Per Issue / Amount Published Annually: 50% prose, nine stories a year

Prose Reviews:

In Transit by Kristen-Paige Madonia is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. A lady and her permanent boyfriend take in their niece after a near fatal car accident. The narrator and boyfriend deal with the idea of having a child and understanding the hardships of the girl as her parents wilt away in a hospital. In the end, the aunt slaps the girl across the face out of irritation with the situation and leaves the girl crying on a bed. She immediately apologizes and admits that she is not good with children.

The story is description-driven even though dialogue explores the characters and their histories. Though the writing is fairly simple, the dialogue makes this story move in a perfect rhythmical sequence. The two main characters, the aunt and her niece, are supported strongly by the boyfriend. Even though he is a minor character in the story, he provides the initiative for the narrator to reveal her honest feelings about situations. Through the incredibly natural use of dialogue and the interplay between characters, as well as quality descriptions of events and actions, the story is brought to a dramatic peak, where it follows the traditional story arc to a well-settled conclusion.

Lit by Jessica Treglia is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. The narrator is a father whose son commits suicide by burning himself in the backyard. The father attempts to deal with the agony of his son burning his face away so that no one could see it again. Along the way, he remembers a kid he went to grade school with committing suicide, and is directed towards therapy group by his neighbor. In the end, he secretly apologizes to his neighbor for having to see his burning child first.

This story flows very well through the passage of time. It captures emotions and the true thought process of someone dealing with the matter on their own and then in therapy. Not only does the author capture the thoughts and feelings, but also, she manages to capture the points in the thought process where thoughts and feelings are stripped from the griever. She captures the character through the use of lists and sparse descriptions of characters and events. The ending is open, but captures the realistic essence that life goes on whether conclusions are made or not.

Rating: 6. Emerging writers have something to shoot for because of the high quality of the writing, but the low number of publications each year hurts its rating.