

Opium6: Bad Company

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What they Publish: Fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry aimed towards emerging writers. Described as “literary humor for the deliriously captivated.”

Submission Guidelines: Submissions are only accepted online. There is a 1,000 word limit for online submissions and a 4,000 word limit for print submissions. The same story cannot be submitted to both publications. No more than two stories or five poems can be sent to either publication at a time.

Description of Publication: An easy to navigate, professional online publication still in its infant stage, with a bound version housing completely different material. Online archives are not organized by issues but by publication date. Due to numerous silly biographies, it is hard to tell how many accredited writers are published. Comments from online readers are encouraged. Bound publications are published annually. Fun reading with a tinge of morbid humor.

Prose Per Issue: Roughly 80 percent prose. The rest is poetry.

Prose Reviews:

Talking Longfellow by Darte Hunt is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. Told through the third person, its main character is described as a bitter and mysterious man known for his constant quoting of Longfellow to passersby. Though his name is never given, the man is a legend in the small mountainous town that he lives in. One day a peculiar cloud is seen looming over the town and the man immediately relates to it, as he too is a shadow seen looking over civilization. After he is dead and buried, his tombstone is stolen and placed in his windowsill.

This piece was interesting—detailed and honest in the beginning, and then somewhat forced later on. The writer’s voice sounded jumbled and unsure as to how he wished to be read as. The subject definitely grabbed my attention; lonesome characters are always interesting—at least they ought to be. Perhaps the story would have worked better had it been a longer piece. The ending was very sudden.

You Can’t Push Around Father by H.M. Evangelos is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. The main character is a subjective narrator struggling to relate to his father, whom he has not talked to in the last twenty years. He finds himself leaving a sixty second message on his parents’ answering machine suggesting therapy—anything, really—to get their relationship back on it’s feet again. The narrator’s mother and sister say it is okay to have a seemingly nonexistent relationship with his father because he is not an emotional man. He then proceeds to say that he had a dream his father died, and that he was happy about it.

This very short story caught my attention immediately. I think I found myself relating to it very easily. The way the author started: “I have 60 seconds, so I talk for 60 seconds” was a very effective hook, reminiscent of Palahniuk. I liked the playful use of similes at the end and the particular line: “You’re unresponsive or detached because your love wrench is rusty, small, or metric – or lost.” I truly enjoyed this itty bitty story.

Rating: 4.5. Overall, this is a good journal, both online and bound, and the editors seem helpful and encouraging. Several writers with a lot of published material under their belts are on the website, so I'm not sure how easy it would be for an emerging writer to be accepted.