

Quarterly West (Issue 59)

Reviewer: Andrew Graf

Editor: Paul Ketzle & Mike White

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Web Address: www.utah.edu/quarterlywest

What They Publish: Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Poetry

Submission Guidelines: Standard guidelines apply. Send up to two stories fewer than five pages each. Simultaneous submissions are accepted. Editors read from Sept. 1 to April 30; 3 to 6 months response time.

Description of Publication: This is a well-regarded, well-written journal that costs \$8.50. The journal publishes many hidden treasure pieces from new and upcoming authors on a consistent basis.

Percentage of Prose Per Issue / Amount Published Annually: 40% prose, 2 stories a year

Prose Reviews: *Heart Sockets* by Leni Zumaz is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. The narrator takes hurt animals of all kinds in at his home and helps them heal. At his work, where he sews heart-shaped pillows for dying children, a new employee who seems the age of a boy stands out against the other vegetable-like sewers because of his old style dress and vocabulary, and also by talking loudly in the workroom is taken interest in by the narrator. A co-worker to the narrator, nicknamed Calf, prompts the narrator to pass along a love letter to the new employee to see if he is interested. All the while the narrator is raising new animals at home and helping to sew together two of his co-workers. In the end, the narrator realizes that he is not only stitching, but also mending people's hearts.

This story is a prime example of breaking barriers with the use of language. The author incorporates old language vocabulary with new language techniques to create a very unique style. Some of the sentences are so tangled by the twisted language that they read a lot slower than the others, but these are strategically placed throughout the piece and used as a meter of time. The author uses place not only as a visual element, but as a way to move time, opening up new places and opening the story into a broad spectrum of small stories all feeding into one.

The Guild of Thieves, a Mystery Girl, and Sunrise Palms by Nic Pizzolatto is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. The narrator is a failed high school age drug dealer who has latched himself onto a pawnshop owner named CB. CB teaches the narrator how to efficiently rob houses and buildings without getting caught. The narrator's mother is in an insane asylum and his father is on the run from someone or something, as he eventually leaves the narrator two grand and his house for an undetermined amount of time. In the end, nothing changes with or without the father's presence.

This story is told from a third-person view without ever directly exploring any of the character's minds, rather showing their emotions and actions through an overall narrator. The author provides enough back-story to understand the current state of the characters and to make conclusions of where they may end up in the future. The language is considerably more plain than in *Heart Sockets*, but instead of wowing with the use of language, maintains a proper tone for the piece and its setting.

Rating: 5. This earns its rating for the sole reason of the limited number of story publications each year.