

**Fourteen Hills** (Vol. 13, No. 1)

Reviewer: Matthew John

Editor: Maria Suarez

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Web address: <http://14hills.net>

What they Publish: Poetry, Fiction, Art

Submission Guidelines: Standard submission guidelines apply. No electronic submissions, but they accept work year-round.

Description of Publication: Neatly bound professional-looking print magazine that is published biannually.

Subscriptions are \$17 for one year or \$32 for 2. Individual issues are available for \$9.

Percentage of Prose Per Issue: Heavy on fiction and poetry, and a generous mix of both. About 25% of each issue concentrates on a featured author.

Prose Reviews:

*Of a Bullet's Clarity* by Jeffery Douglas is a subjective first-person story told in a domestic setting. Our hero Finnegan Mihelich is a pizza delivery guy. Unfortunately for him, the people he's delivering pizzas to keep killing themselves. It begins innocently enough—Finnegan arrives at the home of a local artist with a pizza, but the artist's door is open and Finnegan walks in to find a dead body and a VCR tape marked "play me." He plays the tape and it explains that the suicide is the artist's greatest piece of art, his masterpiece. But the news coverage of the event leads more and more people to commit suicide as art. And they all must call the same pizza man. After experiencing so much suicide art the pizza man is finally driven to create a piece of it himself.

I was thrilled with the amount of suspense and drama in this piece. Even though there are several graphic suicide scenes Douglas does such a wonderful job describing each one that it never seems boring or already done. In addition, Douglas keeps us firmly inside the mind of Finnegan, creating an internal monologue that is both gripping and thought-provoking.

*The Made for TV Story of my Life* by Miriam Parker is a subjective first-person story told in a domestic setting. The narrator, Jill, has had an affair with a high school faculty member which left her pregnant. Unfortunately, Jill is on some medication which has adverse effects on the baby. It is born with three hands and one lung and quickly dies. The infant's death causes a media frenzy, and Jill is suddenly catapulted into fame. Dozens of interviews eventually lead to a made-for-TV movie. However, Sara Ann, the actress playing Jill, is a strict method actor and insists on observing Jill. Although reluctant at first, Sara Ann quickly ingratiates herself into Jill's life. But as time passes, Sara Ann becomes more and more like Jill, imitating Jill's speech and movements, even stealing Jill's clothing. Sara Ann eventually becomes Jill, fooling even Jill's parents into believing that she is the real thing. Meanwhile the real Jill becomes invisible and fades from the sight and attention of the world.

The narrative voice in this piece is so strong that it makes it a breeze to read. Jill's life becomes an open book as we're treated to all the hopes fears and dreams of a small-town-girl-turned-media-darling. The action moves quickly with out breaking its stride for exposition. I would have liked to have seen a little more in the way of motivation on the part of Sara Ann, as we never really get to see inside her head or heart. However I'm very appreciative of the ending, as Jill's fifteen minutes of fame dry up and she vanishes from the world forever.

Rating: 8. I think that the contributors are varied enough that it shouldn't be too difficult for an emerging writer to get a solid read out of Fourteen Hills. The quality of the stories and poetry is excellent, and the magazine is very well put together and presentable.