

Title of Magazine: Literary Juice    Issue: #11

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Editor: Sara Rajan

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Web Address: www.literaryjuice.com

What they publish: Fiction (2,500 words max), flash fiction (100 to 600 words), pulp fiction (twenty-five words exactly), and poetry (prose poetry included)

Submission Guidelines: Submissions must be previously unpublished and are only accepted via Submittable, an upload manager. Submissions must be double spaced in Times New Roman 12-point size font with the word count in the upper right-hand corner of the manuscript. If published, they obtain non-exclusive, first publication rights to the work. Simultaneous submissions not accepted.

Description of Publication: Bimonthly (every two months). It's a free magazine and the contributors aren't paid. However, they do hold an annual \$100-prize poetry contest, but there's a \$5.00 entry fee per submission. The magazine features experienced authors but gives opportunity to emerging writers as well. The Web site contains few graphics and has a simple design with straightforward links, organized by category, at the center of the page.

Prose Per Issue/Amount of Published Annually: Four to eight stories (30% to 60% prose) per issue, twenty-four to forty-eight stories annually.

Prose Reviews:

*The Anniversary Dinner* by Alex Slotkin is a plainspoken, subjective third person, realistic flash story in a domestic setting. Silvia is getting ready for her anniversary dinner the same way she has every year in her fifty-year marriage to Mark Goldstein. After getting dressed and preparing dinner, she realizes that Mark isn't ready yet. She walks into their bedroom and helps him get dressed and into his wheelchair. Then, she wheels him to the dining table and excuses herself momentarily to close the curtains, because not everyone can understand the love between a woman and her deceased husband.

The first few sentences quickly introduce the audience to the characters, what their relationship is to each other, and what's happening at the moment. Then, there's a short but effective model telling of how this couple usually celebrates their anniversary. Nostalgic details like the couple's favorite champagne, Dom Perignon or the smell of Chanel No. 5 make this story seem like a typical "old-people-still-in-love" romance, but Slotkin intrigues the audience with the description, "Mrs. Goldstein readied everything, except for her date." He drops little hints along the way to make the audience suspicious like when Silvia's helping Mark get ready and there is no verbal communication between the two. These clues make the audience wonder if something larger is going on. The story ends strongly with the line "not many people can understand the love between a woman and her deceased husband," which concludes any prior suspicions. In addition, the use of visually clear actions like wheeling a wheelchair to a dining table and short dialogue such as "You aren't even dressed!" make the story a convenient, fast paced read.

*Vincent* by Glenn Erick Miller is a plainspoken, realistic story in a domestic setting, narrated by the protagonist's brothers in first person present tense. The protagonist, Vincent is a shy, average-looking, twenty-six-year old who still lives at home and works as an assistant manager at Computer Tek. He goes out of his way to avoid confrontation with other people including girls. His two punk baby brothers often visit him at work after school. They mess up the displays and tease him whenever a woman walks into the store. One time, they corner a woman and tell her about their handsome, successful brother who works there. The woman plays along and asks to meet

him, but when Vincent comes out of the storage room, they pretend they don't know him and the woman, seeing Vincent, walks away.

The entire story is one long model telling of the character, Vincent and his life. The first few lines quickly establish an image of the stereotypical, aging, computer nerd with no social life with little tidbits like he's twenty six, still living at home, and hasn't had a date since his junior prom. The story then goes into past events that support Vincent's present character. For example, he doesn't like confrontation with people. During his junior prom, he curls up on the ground and starts crying, because some people start to tease him. Vincent's two brothers are also quickly characterized as young wannabe punks through their actions like "sharing a smoke" or "fishing out quarters when no one's looking" from a water fountain at the mall. Although Vincent is the main character, his two brothers are the ones who change throughout the story. They start off sounding concerned about Vincent, but the story ends with them being ashamed of him instead. This piece has a slower pace even with the short sentences, but it successfully displays each character's lifestyle and attitude with minimal description.

Rating: 8. The Web site is user-friendly in terms of navigating around and finding pieces from archived issues. The design is simple with one or two graphics. The links are organized by writing category at the center of the page and all the writing uses a large, easy-to-read font. There is a mixture of stories from both experienced as well as emerging writers, but more importantly, the stories are engaging and well written.