

Title of Magazine: Map Literary Issue #4

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Editor: John Parras

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Web Address: <http://www.mapliterary.org/>

What they publish: Fiction, nonfiction, poetry

Submission Guidelines: They accept simultaneous submissions but request three weeks exclusive consideration. Send bio note with submission.

Description of Publication: Fairly new lit mag that seems geared toward new and emerging writers. Some contributors have a few publication credits, most don't. Website layout is well-designed and easy to navigate.

Prose Per Issue / Amount of Published Annually: 50%

Prose Reviews:

*Big Sis* is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. It follows the story of a young girl in a dysfunctional family. When her older sister, Sis, becomes pregnant and refuses to leave her room for days, the younger sister fills in for Sis, both with chores and romance.

The most effective part of this story is the way it uses the sisters to contrast one another. The younger sister imagines that her round belly is a baby belly, but she hasn't picked out a father for the baby yet. Because she is oblivious to the full meaning of the events of the story—especially the absence of her father and her sister's "sickness"—the younger sister presents a more innocent account of pregnancy, but also mirrors the entire family and their attitudes toward love and relationships.

*Night, Then Morning: Elko, Nevada* is a plainspoken narrative essay dealing with the issues of a rural community. The story is primarily about the place itself, contrasting Elko, Nevada in the night, "ground zero in a vast dislocated landscape" against images of Elko during the day: "A cup of coffee and things look a little brighter."

Like *Big Sis*, a lot of this story hinges on opposites and also presents the dysfunctional aspects of society, though in this case it is the sense of place rather than a sense of the characters, and the society it's criticizing is a series of hazy bars and casinos. The places themselves become characters through the people who inhabit them, but the strongest kick comes from the sense of inescapable loneliness that the people in this desolate Nevada town share.

Rating: 9. Although publication is infrequent and this seems like a quality literary magazine accepting of new and emerging writers.