

Title of Magazine: **Whiskey Paper**

Issue: March 2014 Stories

Editor: Loran Smith & Leesa Cross-Smith

Web Address: whiskeypaper.com

What they publish: Flash fiction - under 1,000 words. They do not accept poetry or nonfiction. They prefer literary fiction. They don't publish dark themes, genre fiction, graphic sex, profanity or weird for weird's sake.

Submission Guidelines: Submissions should be sent to whiskeypaper@gmail.com, with the story pasted in the body of the email and the proper subject headline. You can include a cover letter if you choose to, but it's not mandatory.

Description of Publication: Whiskey Paper is the creation of a husband and wife. It is a very minimalist Web site that is clean, simple and easy-to-access. They seem to publish mostly emerging writers. Each published story is accompanied by a song selected by the author, chosen to compliment the story.

Prose Per Issue/Amount of Published Annually: There are four-five stories published every month. One story is published on the Web site every Sunday. Approximately forty-eight stories are published annually.

Prose Reviews:

Ericka by Leon Hedstrom is a plainspoken realistic story told in a domestic setting. The unnamed, first person narrator is reminiscing on his relationship he had with Ericka. In a non-linear structure, this ambiguous relationship between the narrator and Ericka is depicted in quick scenes and internal retrospection. This narrator is drawn to Ericka, though it's never explicit exactly what kind of relationship they have. Ericka is described through her quirks, like her habit of drawing "circles whenever she could," or the way her "teeth were crooked in the way that nobody ever called charming," so "she didn't smile all that much." These observations are mixed with the narrator's imaginings of Ericka to create a mysterious character that is never realized or understood.

The narration successfully balances both external action and internal exposition. The nonlinear structure allows the focus to intentionally shift to the most important and telling moments between the narrator and Ericka. Through most of the story there is nothing wholly dramatic or risky taking place, but the calm, nostalgic tone keeps the story moving. At the end, it closes with a final sense of this ambiguity between these two characters, heightening the sense of leaving something unsaid.

Think About Airplanes by Camille Griep is a plainspoken realistic story told in a domestic setting. The third person narrator closely follows Milly through one Ohio summer day at the Tri County Air Show. Milly has a suspicion that one of the women pilots supposed to perform at the show is her long-estranged mother, who had left her alone with her father years ago. Though Milly wants to see this female pilot's show, she is intercepted by her "best friend" Heather, who demands Milly's presence so she can help her mack it with one of the Wexelrod twins. Milly follows her into the art barn where the twins are waiting. Heather goes off with one twin and Milly is left to uncomfortably kiss the other twin. She escapes and goes to discover whom the female pilot is, but she is severely disappointed when she sees it's not her mother.

The straightforward, linear structure is able to build suspense throughout the story, which makes the revelation at the end all the more powerful and disappointing. The third person narration allows for full descriptions of the place, "the grass already gave off a little steam mixed with the scents of new corn and diesel tractor exhaust,"

but these sensory details aren't consistent throughout the piece. The internal struggle is reflected in interactions between the main character and other characters, like when Heather pressures Milly to come into the barn with her, just so one of the twins can grab Milly's breast too hard once they start fooling around. The sense of longing and desire comes through very strongly, as does the theme of wanting something more and wanting to get away, but this theme is one that's been written again and again, and this piece doesn't offer anything extraordinarily new.

Rating: 7. This is a lovely, simple platform for emerging writers to present their work. The inclusion of music is a fun and quirky addition to the written work. All of the stories are presented respectfully, with the words being the center of attention. It is a casual, relaxed environment to showcase stories.