

Title of Magazine: Foundling Review Issue #73

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Editor: Anupama Shankar

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Web Address: <http://www.foundlingreview.com/>

What they publish: Fiction, poetry

Submission Guidelines: They want refreshing stories that captivate, entertain, or ruminate. Stories with a strong emotional core. Accepts fiction between 100 and 2,000 words, poetry up to 50 lines.

Description of Publication: They've been around since 2009. Editors hold PhD and Masters degrees in non-art related fields but boast a love for well-told stories. Website is simple, easy to find what you're looking for. Stories are accompanied by a brief author note about craft, and most bios reference previous publications.

Prose Per Issue / Amount of Published Annually: Around five prose pieces per issue (70%), eight to twelve issues per year.

Prose Reviews:

"Substitute" by Mary Kathleen Flannery is a plainspoken realistic story set in a school. The narrator is a substitute teacher who is nervous about her day teaching a class of kindergarteners. While she has them write out wishes and draw these wishes coming true, one little girl leaves to go to the bathroom but doesn't return, and the narrator wonders what she will tell the girl's mother and the police if the girl is lost forever.

The thing this story does remarkably well is to get across the dreamlike, childish imagination that comes with being surrounded by coloring children. The kids in this story, drawing out their greatest wishes at the narrator's request, portray a sort of innocence and a promise of infinite futures, while the narrator contrasts this with her fears of messing up and eventually her fear of having lost one of the girls in the class. The dreamlike state of the story, heightened after the girl's absence, adds to the feeling of suspense and draws the reader into the narrator's emotions without needing to state what those emotions (fear, suspense, failure) are.

"Wakulla Manatee" by Charles Griggs is a plainspoken realistic story set on a boat surrounded by manatees. The narrator, admiring the manatee's maplike skin, wants to apologize for humans who kill manatees and explain that he is "one of the good ones," but he is embarrassed for others to see him show these emotions. In the end, he apologizes to the manatee.

The story itself seems to be more of a statement about how humans treat animals, but the narrative arc is missing. There isn't much setup as to why this narrator cares so much about manatees. We simply see that he does, and that he eventually faces his fear of showing how much he cares. There is some beautiful imagery in describing the manatee: "Body like a map, scar tissue delineates the flesh into territories whose swollen demarcations evince a history of suffering not unlike those real-world boundaries dividing continents into their own confines of bygone pain." But as far as story goes, there really wasn't one.

Rating: 4. Frequent publications per year, although less so in the most recent issues. The quality of the writing is good, but the emphasis on story is somewhat lacking. Overall, it seems like a good place for a second or third publication.