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Web Address: [www.phoebejournal.com](http://www.phoebejournal.com)

What they publish: Fiction, Poetry, Nonfiction, Interviews, Art.

Submission Guidelines: *Phoebe* accepts Fiction and Nonfiction (including interviews) whose word count is up to 4000 words. For poetry, send three to five poems per document. Simultaneous submissions are welcomed and encouraged, just send them a note if a story is published elsewhere.

Description of Publication: Founded in 1971 *Phoebe* is a journal dedicated to literature and art. Since it's first issue, *Phoebe* prides itself in accepting emerging writers and artists. They prefer stories that trigger sensory detail and evoke emotion. They are associated with George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Every May, their Spring issue is published online, and ever December their Fall issue is published in print, which can be purchased for \$6. Every November an annual contest is held.

Prose Per Issue / Amount of Published Annually: *Phoebe* is a biannual literary journal, with about six to eight prose pieces published per issue.

Prose Reviews: "Great Blue" by Emily Rinkema is a plainspoken realistic story in a domestic setting. Early in the morning Corky's father asks her if she wants to go on a fishing trip on the Winooski River, somewhere in Vermont. Skipping school, ten-year-old Corky sits back and waits for her line to bite in her father's small motorboat. There are flashbacks to home life with her older brothers, who are nasty to her and call her "Porky." Corky catches a fish and feels a great swell of happiness, she's done something that will make her father proud. However, refusing to kill the fish, even though "Fish don't have feelings." Corky's father becomes gruff and snaps the fish's neck himself. He tells her, "I should have never brought you out here." At home, Corky falls asleep listening to her brothers fight over the TV. Her father comes into her room, smelling of beer and asks her if she's asleep, which she pretends to be. She is left in the darkness of her room thinking about what a great day she had with her father.

What makes "Great Blue" an effective piece is the subtle release of information; Rinkema allows the story reveal itself. In the first few paragraphs, it's known that Corky is growing up in a single parent family. The alienation through character interaction with Corky and her older brothers create a sense of distance between her and her family, putting the fragility of her relationship with her father at stake. She doesn't usually go fishing because "Girls can't pee off the side of the boat." The story is an instance where the model of Corky's life is broken, putting her in the position of change. The sensory details Rinkema uses are very direct and give a specific perspective on how the reader is meant to read the story. "He smells like fish and gasoline." Even though most of the time Corky spends fishing with her father is silent with little dialogue, these concrete significant details Rinkema writes, brings the place (a rural community) to life.

"The Foot" by Ryan Habermeyer is a poetic magical realism story set in a domestic setting. Detailing the account of a giant washed up female foot, the inhabitants of a small seaside town are sent into a frenzy. Told in an omniscient "we" the town holds a solstice and invites a traveling carnival to come and celebrate the obscurity that

has made an appearance in their otherwise banal lives. Men cut off their feet in severance to the giant foot, in hopes of finding a wife. One girl, a crippled beauty named Ada, falls in love with an illusionist named Lenz. He has her shoot him, and she cries when he doesn't get up. Thirty minutes later he sits up, and coughs. They lie together and she becomes pregnant, which causes her family to disown her. As time goes on, she moves outside of the town. The obsession with the giant foot remains with the townspeople, who all but consider it a community member. She tells the stories of the foot to her child, as they live on their own gathering the remains of the cut off feet from the solstice and tossing them to the gulls.

The lyrical storytelling brings life to this modern folktale. "The town became a mess of cigarettes, fruit rinds, and confetti. Puddles of liquor and piss blotched the roads and trash heaps smelled sweet with rot. It reminded us of a distant hour before there were names and men were still dreaming animals into existence." It takes the reader on a whirlwind of tiny instances; minute odd deeds the townspeople partake in (such as cutting off one of their own limbs) having to do with the foot. With similar tones as Marquez's "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World," this story takes everyday life and twists it with a supernatural event. It drives the tension and what's at stake. There's uneasiness amongst the townspeople at first, and then they grow accustomed to it. The "we" is powerful in telling the story, simply because the pronoun pops up in only a few places, dragging the reader back into the root of the story.

Rating: 7—A lot of the writers published are first time authors; there's a wide selection of voices, evocative stories, and a little bit for everybody to enjoy.