

Forge (Issue 7.2)

Editor: Leif Milliken and Melissa Wolfe

Web Address: www.forgejournal.com/forge/

What They Publish: Prose, poetry, and art

Submission Guidelines: Work must be submitted as an attachment in an e-mail to

forgejournal@gmail.com. It must be in a .doc or .rtf format. The subject line of the e-mail must read “General Submission” for fiction or “Poetry Submission” for poetry. There is no reading fee, monetary compensation, or word limit on submissions.

Description of Publication: This is an artistic journal that has a Web site to reflect that. A new issue is published quarterly. They boast well-established award winning writers.

Prose per Issue: 12 per issue, 48 per year.

Prose Reviews:

“Down From Canada” by Robin Curtiss is a plainspoken historical fiction story told in a domestic setting. Taking place in the Vietnam War era, Alec must drive from Canada to the States to see his brother who is dying of lung cancer. While out taking a smoke, Alec overhears that his sister-in-law will be forced to leave her home after his brother passes. Alec takes it upon himself to shame the man who provides their shelter. His brother then becomes so furious that Alec is sure he won’t see his brother again until the funeral.

Curtiss does a great job in creating the Vietnam Era in his prose as a Canadian might experience it. “Some idiot reports the week’s casualties in Vietnam like he’s reading a baseball score,” he is skipping through the radio. The metaphor used shows the animosity that he has towards the American’s and their war. Though this piece is dragging in daunting clichés with the waitress at the diner asking him if he wants a slice of pie with his coffee, “hon,” and hearing Janet speaking “clear as a bell.” All of it slows down the flow and lacks originality in the diction.

“I Cook the Sausages,” by Anthony Langford is a plainspoken story told in a domestic setting. The narrator, who is really good at cooking sausages, has recently suffered a brain injury. When his daughter comes to visit he is trying his best to talk to her when the neighbor’s dog starts to bark. After attempting to attack the dog he realizes what he was about to do and runs off in shame.

Langford plays with syntax in order to reveal the narrator’s brain injury. “I don’t like the pills. I want to remember Before. Everyone telling me I was better Before.” The short sentences characterize his confusion. The point of view adds to the richness. “I say, I didn’t. She says, Yes you did. Oh my God Dad!” There are no quotes, the dialogue is spoken exactly how the narrator hears it. It allows the reader to feel like they are in the head of this broken man. It was an incredibly unique story.

Rating: 5. The stories are interesting and the magazine is pristine. However, most of the authors are established.