

Title of Magazine: **Haunted Waters Press**

Reviewer: Mahjabeen Syed

Editor: Savannah Renée Spidalieri, Penny Dreadful, and Susan Warren Utley

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Web Address: www.hauntedwaterspress.com

What they publish: Fiction and creative nonfiction pieces in the forms of poetry, prose poetry, short stories, flash fiction, and novellas.

Submission Guidelines: *Haunted Waters Press* accepts many different forms of stories as well as genres; therefore, their submission guidelines vary for each. Normally, they are looking for short stories with 3,500 words or less, flash fiction and poetry of any length, and creative nonfiction of 1,500 words or less. Up to four multiple submissions are allowed while simultaneous submissions are not accepted. Formatting for all stories should include 1" margins, double spaced, 12 pt. font, and Times New Roman.

Description of Publication: *Haunted Water Press's* Web site is put together very well, making the word, "Haunted," in the title rather apparent and literal. Other than accepting different forms of written work, they also offer editorial services such as submission and consultation services for a reasonable price. If you are accepted, they ask that you sign a contract granting them with first worldwide publication print and/or electronic media rights. Compensation for accepted work is not given because the payment varies from project to project.

Prose Review:

Courage by Heather Kwolek is a plainspoken realistic flash fiction piece told in second person in a domestic setting. The story is about a woman who is struggling to accept herself and the circumstances around her after being diagnosed with depression. The story starts with stating her doubts and blaming herself for being the way she is by way of internal dialogue, "Or, maybe, it's your fault: you should go to more parties, let the slopping alcohol and rubbing torsos cement new friendships." The character goes on to explain about how you can hide a secret such as this but in reality everyone knows about who you are and what you have but you must push it aside because after some time, it all gets easier. The story closes by the character coming to terms with how to deal with such an illness and how you must accept and admit it to get past it.

This is a very powerful piece that is not only quite short but written in the second person as well which is rare. Because of the point-of-view that it is written in, the entire story seems very internal with no grasp on whom the character is, only exposing what the character is going through mentally. The story is written very beautifully and with thoughts that most readers can relate to as well as with very good imagery such as, "It passes slowly, creeping out of the black smog like a snail sliding out of the night, but things get better."

The Mountain Lion by Rebecca Rose Moody is a subjective realistic flash fiction piece written in first person in a domestic setting. It follows a woman's experience of her uncle's kill of a cougar and how all the people in town treated the dead cougar as if it was a celebrity. Throughout the story, the uncle justifies the killing of the cougar by saying that, "it was a mountain lion that killed Mrs. Ogle's hens last month, though we all know it was foxes," as well as blaming the cougar for two girls who went missing last December. The story concludes with how men like her uncle will eventually drive all the cougars down from the mountain and into their town and one day the town will be awoken by the screams of her uncle.

The story's oppositional views are what made it a really interesting read. The narrator clearly feels this

resentment over what her uncle did as well as feeling resentment for how the town's people treated the creature. The tone that the author was trying to express really showed not only by her words but how she set herself apart from the rest of the people like she was a bystander. When she says, "When he closed her eyes, she lost some of her fierceness, so that the week that he killed her the men all felt safe and toted her around town, taking pictures," it shows that she is very observant to notice the one detail that she believes made the rest of the town more inclined to go near the obviously dead cougar. The author made the main character not only contrast the minor character but gave the reasons behind it.

Rating: 8. Haunted Waters Press is very impressive because they are straightforward without being intimidating in what they are looking for because of their leniency in genre. Their name however, is somewhat misleading because it gives the impression that this particular literary magazine is dedicated to horror alone when that is not quite so. They hold various contests all year round and have featured authors on the bottom of their homepage. From the author biographies, one can conclude that they love to accept emerging from different backgrounds and the best part is that if they do not accept your work, they are more than happy to help you find another market in which to submit your piece.