
Alchemist Review

April, 2004

Peer Review Panel

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From The Editor

Death, insanity, memory, family and oddly enough, flowers grace the overall tableau of this year's review. Each time I leaf through this compilation my satisfaction in a job well done grows. From the highly structured sonnet and complex sestina to loosely woven works such as *Death of the Moth* [...], each piece herein displays the evolution of the artist. For a few writers this is their first time in print (round of applause), for others this publication may be their last amateur gig before promising careers. I hope this forum (at least under my watch) provides a warm comfortable place for these cocoon breakers to dry their wings. Congratulations! Enjoy!

A special thanks to Lindsey Feger our graphic designer, David Pithford our keen eye, our donors Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, Tom & Ellen Schanzle-Haskins and those who choose to remain nameless.

Thank You,

Maureen Skube

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Camouflage

Jenell Anderson

My eyes watch you
snicker, stare,
spew your frightened
clusters of hate:
“If them there furr’iners can’t
speak good English,
they shouldn’t be in America.”

English = America?

Hidden, blended—
normal.
Auburn hair, hazel-green eyes—
safe. Reflection of the All-American girl.

Have you ever really looked
at my eyes?
Powerful black orb
surrounded in an olive sea.
Amber, sapphire, onyx float aimlessly
within an almond.

An almond.

If I dyed my hair black,
then you might see it,
the face of my mother,
the face of ancient temples,
misty mountains, rice patties—
the face of difference,
misunderstanding,

your prejudice.

Is there anything you’d like to
say to my face
now?

Break?

Jenell Anderson

Go ahead, runaway, compromise all
that we have worked day in and day out for.
Pretend and hide from the sobbing you saw
reflecting back through you in the mirror.

You tell me of doubts that clutter your mind,
of feelings you still have for me, yet don't.
That we can be us with the pass of time,
gradual, like the erosion of stones.

Perhaps this is just temporary as
you claim, that we will be as one again,
but why should I sit back, let options pass
just for the sake of loving you, my friend.

Who knows what the power of time may bring,
I hope you realize I won't be waiting.

2004 Writer's Repertory Short Fiction Literary Award Winners

1st Place

"Garage Sale"

Ginger Grey

Spokane, WA

2nd Place

"Unseen"

Hester Kaplan

Providence, RI

3rd Place

"Beyond the Ridge"

Beth Blackston

Normal, IL

In its second year, the contest received entries from across the U.S. Our second round of judging narrowed the entries to 18, from which our winners were selected.

Thanks to all who participated in the contest.

Writer's Repertory would also like to extend their appreciation to our panel of judges: Stacey Jo Laatsch, Michael Shipman, David Logan, Penny Pennell, Joanna Tweedy Willmore, Amy Sayre-Roberts, Mary Gilmore, Donna Everhart, and Cliff Wheeler.

A special thanks to The Center for Teaching and Learning for helping support the contest.