

Spring 5-1-2013

Letter from the Editor

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Recommended Citation

(2013) "Letter from the Editor," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 35: No. 2, Article 4.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol35/iss2/4>

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Letter from the Editor

Adam Chalifoux

Thank you to a few inspirational and supportive people I have had the honor of encountering on the winding road that has made up my journey. Heather Peters, Linda Elaine, and James Magrini, you have each truly taught me so much more than the curriculum ...

Throughout my time as editor-in-chief I have come to notice something amazing about the phenomenon that is poetry. I would generally begin our editors' meetings by asking a staff member, "What did you think of the piece?" Each person would then share their interpretation of the poetry.

Every time I would hear a different voice share a different opinion formed from a different brain, a different soul, and a different person. We each saw poetry through a unique lens formed from our experiences, passions, personalities, and philosophies that showed in our unique interpretation of the work. Only when my own work was anonymously reviewed did I come to fully understand what I believe is the truth about poetry, art, and perhaps life: The relationship between the poet and the reader.

The poem was one I had written in high school about a rather unpleasant situation I encountered with a girl. Although admittedly, I didn't expect anyone to pick up on the metaphors that were so personal, I was surprised to hear such intriguing interpretations. One editor thought it was just a simple story with no message at all. Another thought it was a metaphor for the life of Christ. Meanwhile, I sat amused that the poetry had sparked such ideas and conversation. I dared not share my interpretation; after all, whose poem is it really once it's on the page?

Socrates said it best in *The Apology*: "Poets write poetry, but by a sort of genius and inspiration; they are like diviners or soothsayers who also say many fine things but do not understand the meaning of them." Socrates is saying that the poet is like a great artist who paints beautifully but does not fully understand what

he creates on his canvas. In reflection, I now realize that I don't understand the full meaning of my poetry or anyone else's because I can only read a poem through my own eyes. This is not due to my ignorance or that of any other artists, but rather the magnitude of his or her work and the subjective, symbiotic relationship between the poem and reader. We see the words through our own eyes and read the words with our own perspective, which is formed by our own experience. This interpretation and relationship between the poem and the reader is perhaps the most beautiful aspect of poetry.

I am merely a poet. You as a fellowship of the Prairie Light Review are what give each poem power hundredfold. May we may find countless interpretations, meanings, and truths through our reading. Thank you, readers and artists, for your contributions. It has been an honor serving as Editor-in-Chief of the Prairie Light Review. Enjoy.

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