

FSH DECISION LETTER 2014 6

Again, please accept my apologies for the long delay in rendering a decision about your submission.

However, it is really a poignant and well-written piece that will find resonance with many readers. With a few minor revisions, this will be a very strong 55 word story. Please pay attention to reviewer #3's comments about the title. I agree with him that "Diagnosis" isn't quite right, since the narrator does not receive a diagnosis. Rather, the issue is about having the courage to name the thing feared, in this case cancer; and by naming taking away a little of its power. Consider an alternative title, perhaps "Naming" or "Saying It Out Loud." Also please consider the thoughtful revisions suggested by reviewer #2.

DECISION II: I'm a little disappointed that we couldn't find agreement on the issue of the title of this otherwise strong 55 word story. Adam and I felt the title did not represent what actually happens in the story - i.e., there is no diagnosis. However, the author makes a good case for retaining the original title by arguing that diagnosis is as much process as destination. In light of the fact that the piece is otherwise well-written and emotionally compelling, I recommend publication as is.