

FSH DECISION LETTER 2016 10

I have now received the reviews of your manuscript and am able to make an editorial decision. Reviews were positive and all resonated to the way in which the narrator describes her suffering and eventual liberation, while simultaneously wrestling with the issues of identity and womanhood that the uterus can represent.

Based on my review and on reviewer comments I am not able to accept your submission. However, with a few well-considered revisions listed below, the piece will make a valuable contribution to our journal.

1) One reviewer felt the title was excessively clever. Please consider modifying the "happy Hystereray." As well, I wonder if "ode" is the correct term, as an ode is usually in praise of, whereas the piece seems to be celebrating the absence of the uterus.

2) The first reviewer is correct that a 55 word story is a very prescribed form, in which the BODY of the work must be precisely 55 words. This effort is 6 words short. The reviewer suggests 6 words, but in particular "I cherish" and "I celebrate" in my view excessively smooth out the appealingly choppy meter of the piece and adds a sentimental quality I think you are trying to avoid. You actually have room to add another sentence if you want, so you might consider another example that highlights the contrasting emotions you are trying to convey.