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The Submission Process

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The Submission Process

Donna J. Gelagotis Lee

I've done my homework.
I'm checking your websites
(and some are down
or being redone,
okay). I've sent for your publication
(and am still waiting
to have checks cashed
from over a year ago
and no issue). Okay.
I understand how hard it is,
how you are juggling work,
bouncing a baby on your knee, or
a husband/fiancé/wife?

It's tough. I would never
start a lit magazine,
although I'm trying to
discover what makes
one *tick*. I'm trying to figure
out what gets published
and why, although I have
to say I'm mostly still
guessing. I have my SASEs
and a few more in case
those are lost and
in case I never hear even
after a year or more has passed.

I take my submission to the post office
to have it weighed. I run off pages twice
that have been wrinkled or smudged,
and I don't rely only on spell check
but on my significant other's eye
as well as my own second, third, or fourth
read. I'd like to say I don't even simultaneously
submit but that would be untrue.
I'll say I try not to.
Okay. So I've developed
a plan for patience.
I've got my left hand working
slightly behind my right. I find time
slipping up as well, but you can't blame
time or lack of it. Time is a blank blackboard,
an unwritten piece of paper, a white screen.
Time is what you don't have.