

Marcella Purnama

Marcella, this is a sensitive and insightful response to 'The Naked Eye'. The tone of your feedback is warm and encouraging, offering potential for a fruitful collaboration between you and the author. You highlight the story's strengths – the author's writing style and narrative voice – while indicating areas for improvement to maximise the story's potential. Your editorial report is clearly expressed, as is your mark-up of the text.

You have identified the key shortfalls of the story – lack of insight into Ingrid's emotional response to the camera being stolen and the implications of this for her; too much exposition and not enough dramatised scenes and dialogue; lack of dramatic tension in the unfolding of the plot; thin characterisation of Josh; an anticlimactic ending that fails to tease out the implications of the affair, the theft and the emotional impact of these events on the characters; the absence of specific details to anchor the story in time and place.

The solutions you offer – in particular, more dramatised scenes, interaction and dialogue between the characters – would certainly bring the story to life and make it more vivid and compelling. I also strongly agree that the story's major flaw is lack of adequate insight into Ingrid's emotional reaction to her situation – to the theft, to the revelation of the affair, and her contemplation of the possible consequences for her. This oversight makes it difficult for the reader to connect with Ingrid and to empathise with the precariousness of her situation.

Your suggestion to increase Remco's presence in the story is an interesting one. I certainly agree that the current treatment of this character is neither here nor there; he should either be beefed up to justify his inclusion or cut completely. In my view, he is superfluous – the core story concerns Josh and Ingrid; but perhaps he can be brought in to add complexity to Ingrid's affair, as you suggest.

You have rightly identified that the interaction between Ingrid and the policemen is weak – the conversation doesn't advance the action or add any new information. Your idea to include Josh or Remco in this scene could sharpen it and make it more relevant.

I do suggest that you indicate your understanding of the story's core themes and ideas – such as Ingrid's insecurity around her sexuality; the irony implicit in Ingrid's insistence on engagement with visual culture, only to find herself represented in such terms. A brief discussion of the themes that underpin the story would signify an engagement with its deeper aims and intentions.

Overall Marcella, this is a thoughtful response that offers encouraging advice and clear suggestions to the author.

H2A.

I declare that this is my own original work and has not been submitted for any other subject

Signature:

Date: 11 September 2015