Send Us Your Best iStory

Everyone’s invited to celebrate Narrative’s new look by entering our free iStory Contest.

What’s an iStory? It’s a short (150 word max) dramatic narrative, perfect for a quick read on your favorite mobile device. We look for inspired, timeless tales that are entertaining, informing, or shocking, and that, most of all, speak to the heart of things. See the contest guidelines and enter.

Legendary author Ann Beattie will judge the contest.

Prizes: The winner will be announced via Twitter and Facebook on Monday, October 13. First Prize: $250; Second Prize $150; Third Prize $100—and all entries have a chance for publication in Narrative.

Idolatry
AN iSTORY
BY
SHERMAN ALEXIE
MARIE WAITED FOR HOURS. That was okay. She was Indian, and everything Indian—powwows, funerals, and weddings—required patience. This audition wasn’t Indian, but she was ready when they called her name.

“What are you going to sing?” the British man asked.

“‘Every Reservation Girl Loves Patsy Cline,’ ” she said.

“Let’s hear it.”

She sang only the first verse before he stopped her.

“You are a terrible singer,” he said. “Never sing again.”

She knew this moment would be broadcast on national television. She’d already agreed to accept any humiliation.

“But my friends, my voice coaches, my mother, they all say I’m great.”

“They lied.”

How many songs had Marie sung in her life? How many lies had she been told? On camera, Marie did the cruel math, rushed into the green room, and wept in her mother’s arms.

In this world, we must love the liars. Or live alone.