

NO GIRLS NO TELEPHONES

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ISBN: 978-1-62557-999-7

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Published 2014 by Black Lawrence Press.
Printed in the United States.

IN US WE TRUST

Sky clouds at noon, Oconomowoc storms rage
as the land discharges the peaceful
like a jack-knifing car. More, now, more ravines,
more river-basins, at the lowest point
they are on guard. Distrustful underneath
even their stone houses,

those we don't want. Sundance and pause,
rain and fall, these days we pray
for all to burn out, shine
while they do. Years from now on holiday
the tar pits uneven and insistent
as an attraction.

At this moment, the air breathes them
like lung-coal, and they stand leagues beneath
and they keen. There is no war
and so there are no stars, there is
the reeling notion
that now they are worse than dead.

IN US WE TRUST

Dirt clods at midnight, Vidalia weeps love
as the sea sucks in the pugilists
like a open-mouthed boat. Less, then, less river,
more canyon, at the apex
the watch falls to sleeping. Naïve on the rim
of a glass teacup,

the one I desire. Nightshuffle and run,
parch and rise, in the dark we curse
for some to wick, snuff out
when we do. Just then on leave without pay
the skyscrapers regularized and quiet
as disgust.

Later, not now, the dirt coughs us up
like nitrogen, and we sit miles above
and we laugh. There is peace
and there are stars, there is
the solid fact
that now we are better than the dead.

Photo: Kit Williamson



Photo: Mark Stafford

Brittany Cavallaro is the author of *Girl-King* (University of Akron Press, 2015). Her poems have appeared in *AGNI*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Tin House*, and *Best New Poets 2011*. She is the recipient of scholarships and fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers Conference and the Vermont Studio Center. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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