

RISE

by Annette Hope Billings

As night falls away
and sunrise ascends,
there lives a moment
when they intersect
and hang in combined air
to become entirely each other's.

At the juncture where ebony,
where light coincide,
my soul takes deep inspiration
of satin contentment,
exhales sigh of velvet gratitude.

Inside the shared early space,
my heart leans in,
finds its increase,
commences a sacred glow.

I unfold, flooded
with certainty of kept promises,
then warmed with assurances
of opportunities wrapped
in sunlit occasions.

Always a gentlewoman,
morning arcs and surrounds me,
I meet her halfway,
offer up my moon-laden heart,
become a Kansas horizon.

I cling as she mounts sky,
shines herself to full height.
Her warmth penetrates me,
new day breath warm on my skin,
I acquiesce, rise too.

Within embrace of morning,
I curtsy and wholly surrender my dark,
we swirl, backlit, blended opposites,
we both bear down,
deliver day.

*Annette Billings had this to say about her poem, "Rise":
"Few things, except perhaps Kansas at sunset, compare to
Kansas at sunrise. I offer this poem as a thank you for
images beyond my imagination."*

Annette Hope Billings, an award-winning poet from Topeka, Kansas, is the author of two books. Her first book, *A Net Full of Hope*, won the 2015 ARTSConnect ARTY Award for Literature. Her second book, *Descants for a Daughter*, is a collection of affirmations published in 2016. Billings also has work published in print and online periodicals and in a short story anthology. She is currently working on a collection of poetry due out in the Fall of 2017.