

## **Three Poems**

*by April Pameticky*

### **Heated Summer**

The cicadas call from elm to oak,  
furious rattles of warning, my body  
aches to lie down in the light, bend

low before I break under the sun's  
white-gold gaze, melt into the brown  
sod dormant from drought. My skin

smells humid, flesh sliding loose on  
bones. The haze bends cars into a  
shimmer of water, and I dream of ice

cubes and mint. The air so slick like  
butter across my skin, the grass baking,  
the trickles of sweat sliding down the

back of my head. Veronica's velvet  
voice blending into the fire of the day  
and I swelter in the summer haze.

**Dirty Kanza\***

Even from the road  
I know their passion,  
the weight of  
the blood, bone, and morning  
against the pedal,  
the elegant push  
against stone and grass,  
though I've never  
sat as they sit,  
smoothing out  
new paths over the hills,  
silhouettes stark  
against the sunrise,  
the sweat of their intention  
reaching me here,  
their breathes deep in my chest,  
the rhythm,  
the flow  
push  
push  
push

exhaling me beyond the sky.

*\*The Dirty Kanza is a grueling 200-mile, cross-terrain 'gravel-grinder' bike race*

### **Falling**

Falling,  
I have dreamt  
of that highest tumble  
from the Red River Bridge,  
crimson folds of mud-logged water  
pulling cattle carcasses  
down the way.

Falling,  
I have dreamt  
of that tripping leap  
from moist clouds  
above HWY 244,  
my body mashed and pressed  
into the asphalt fresh-oiled,  
the heat burning my shape away.

Falling,  
I have dreamt  
of that spill up into  
cerulean Wichita sky,  
the earth my lover,  
releasing me even as I  
scratch at soil to stay  
terra-bound,  
rooted.

Originally from Oklahoma, **April Pameticky** now calls Wichita home. She spends her days as a high school English teacher and her evenings with her husband raising two girls. In between, she writes poetry and edits [River City Poetry](#). Her work can be seen in *Mikrokosmos*, *Chiron Review*, *Epiphany*, along with many others. Her most recent chapbook, *Anatomy of a Sea Star* is available from Cinco de Hermanas Press. Visit [aprilpameticky.com](http://aprilpameticky.com)