

Pain

I seem to have an affinity
for it, a kind of sweet-tooth.
I crave running under the summer sun,
knowing I will inherit skinned knees.
I drown myself in thunderstorms,
craving bolts of lightning
followed by jolts of thunder—
And I, the eye of the storm,
have been collecting chaos
for so long that I've
found peace at the
center of commotion.

Poetry

I, a stalwart amid violence,
abandonment, and abuse,
fell for poetry with the swiftness
of an executor's blade.

Words speak to me in such a
way that I still hear their
echoing after my head rolls.

It's Bases and Birthdays

So I went away for a while; I moved to a state called Texas, where I was invincible, where I had no middle name, where nobody knew I was 24, or that I preferred the martinis at the Elephant Bar because of the apple slice.

I was living here and there, touching bases called Easter and Christmas, and somewhere pickled in between second and third it occurred to me that life is often like that, It's easy to get caught up in the middle.

It's bases and birthdays and too much gray in between, it's in and out, it's PCH at three o'clock in the morning on an exceedingly foggy night, seeing patches of road, but missing your exit: when you can't see what's in front of you, it takes twice as long to get there.

And I guess that explains a lot of things, like what it means to slip away, or have no middle name or favorite color, to go from Monday to Thursday in one breath, to not recall the little things like how your dad rhymed your name with the unrhymable, or how your age was on the back of your plastic spoon at lunch in elementary school.

You forget these things; you forget where you're going, and after awhile, you forget where you've been until the day comes that you venture the road back, picking up pieces that have fallen from your mind, recalling the names of your pets when you were six, and the number you chose on your first softball jersey.

You eventually make it back to the city that screams busy, but breathes home, like a mother upon dusk and newly lit streetlight.