

## Heather Abner

### Playing Bocce Ball with Lothar

If I were Persephone that's what I would have been drawn to—not a daffodil,  
but a bocce ball the size of a pomegranate.

I would have followed the rolling ball  
until I found you

in a meadow in 1940s northern Germany,  
an eight year-old boy in a brown reindeer sweater  
some American family had sent in a charity care package.

We played on a patch of green  
in the middle of Detroit.

Another time, you took me to a meadow in Glennie  
where you and your buddies waited for deer each fall.

I told you it would be a great place for bocce—we'd be hunting  
for the balls in the hip-high grass forever.

**Heather Abner** is a librarian with punk rock roots. She lives in the Rust Belt of Michigan with her husband, Critter, and two Miniature Schnauzers, Diesel and Brizo. She holds an MFA from the University of Michigan and a MLIS from Wayne State University. She often dreams of punk music and poetry while sitting at the reference desk.

