

Emily Pineau – Two Poems

How to Love Me

My body is an obstacle course
and only you know
how bad it gets.

The sharp turns and deep falls,
the way we can end up
turned around, face wet with
not knowing when the pain
will stop and how far it will
push, how fast it will rip
through the roads of me, cutting
through the yellow lines or
veins and bones
with just one slice.

There are no cones or signs here,
just red, swollen, and
never-the-same-again after a
diagnosis, no cure.

Only you know when to stop
without me having to tell you.
Because you feel the empty
spaces in my breaths,
the hesitation of my
heart, and we rebuild the course
through our body movements—
Lay there quiet
when it settles, we settle on
knowing tomorrow is
another ride.

At the Wedding, I Wanted

“All the Single Ladies” does not play,
and no one has their hands
up. There is no direction,
no clear sign
of anything.

My heart doesn't know
how fast
and my arms don't know
how much I want to catch
the bouquet.

Cameras in my face, recording how unsure
I am about what just happened,
how I am suddenly the one
holding a bundle of fake flowers.

"You're the only one who tried,"
the camera man laughs,
showing me myself
red-faced and reaching.

There aren't any slow songs,
just a live band playing
too-loud Latin music—
I try my first piña colada

and get it free
because it takes the bar
an hour to make it.

Our table is full of
"What?" and "Talk louder"
and my uncle undoes his tie
before it is over.

My boyfriend says something,
I do not hear,
He says it
again—I still don't understand.
"I'm sorry," I mouth, "What?"
He puts his mouth to my ear
and just says,
"Beautiful."

Emily Pineau holds an M.F.A. from Pine Manor College, Chestnut Hill, MA, in Creative Writing, with a concentration in Writing for Young People. Pineau is an Editorial Assistant at a medical publisher, a Co-Managing Editor of *Ibbetson Street Press*, and the Director of *Ibbetson Street Press's* Young Poet Series at Endicott College. Pineau's chapbook *No Need to Speak* (*Ibbetson Street Press*, 2013) was chosen for *The Aureorean's* Chap Book Choice in 2013. She has been featured on New Mexico's National Public Radio, and has won *Salamander Magazine's* Poetry-On-the-Spot contest. Pineau's poems

have appeared or are forthcoming in *Medical Literary Messenger*, *Freshwater*, *Muddy River Poetry Review* (which nominated her poem “I Would For You” for a Pushcart Prize), and elsewhere. Pineau lives in the suburbs of Boston with her fiancé, fat orange cat, and Pomeranian.