

Michelle Radseszewski - Two Poems

In the Air

I was in the air.
Never still, for in the air
Wind cares not what it permits chase
I, a torturous afterthought afloat
While below, I suppose he tried to sleep
Cots arranged evenly into rows, two by two
With proper space between, ample enough room
To engage temptation only to find her a mute.

Patterned sheets for a baby barred
and army-issue navy blankets, old ones
So old in fact, they still read "US"
He pressed his clothes neatly
Folding his arms into his chest
And when ordered gave them rest,
by the foot of the bed.

If only we could exchange words
Surely something could be arranged,
Some deal made, some familiar trade off,
Another, more quiet war fought
You see, I still had my body (then).

That was the fantasy
Alive in his newfound ability
He learned to speak without a sound
In the near-darkness we could stretch our arms out,
and when God wasn't looking
Touch each other's hands across space.

When Reading

She has known the intolerable loneliness of books,
Faded on their shelves, praying for the company of a moth,
All the worry of final chapters and apostrophe,
Isolation in congested university hallways,
Sympathetic circulation desk, retired catalog, library card,
The eternal life of pen and paper,
Routine of calculator, parentheticals, stapler,

Ceaseless run of breathing and inanimate.
And she has seen words from the pages of "in between" and "all the while,"
Deadlier than silence, awake, more constant than oxygen,
Read, almost understood, after long nights of translation,
Staining her pure skin, the vulgar ancient verse.

Michelle Radseszewski lives in Plymouth, MA and is currently studying for her masters degree in social work at Simmons College. She enjoys writing and reading poetry and verse in her spare time and has been published in Clark University's literary journal *Caesura* as well as Mignon Ariel King's web *journal U.m.p.h! Pros*. Michelle has been a featured reader at the poetry venue The Main Street Café in Easton, MA and is scheduled to feature at Poetry: The Art of Words in Plymouth, MA next year. She has self-published one chapbook of poetry entitled *Modern Berserker* which was reviewed by Mignon Ariel King and The Boston Area Small Press and Poetry Scene.