

One Amber Down, Two to Go

by Chad Smith

Pulling myself up

Through the emergency hatch
Harder to stand than I thought it would be
On the rooftop
Of my train leaving
Wind blowing, gathering balance, step forward an inch

The six o' clock train speeding towards me in the distance
On the opposite tracks heading back
To Germany
Behind me

It's
Blasting
Now along side the moving train I stand on
My black cocktail dress not the best uniform
For this stunt
There wasn't time even for a quick change
 Move slowly to the edge
Step back
 Move again to the edge
 I will have to time this just right
 Finding a spot with my eyes
Run along the train as it continues to pass
End of the train car coming under my feet

I leap

For a brief second I am in the air between trains
Freed from both, floating

My life isn't getting any longer
That wasn't the real me
A bad sandwich made with stale bread
Poisoned with boredom
Too young to know then
I was meant for more

Now I know better

I am brave, I am sexy, I am strong

Smashing down on the roof of the next train
Scraping knee, twisting ankle, snapping fingernail
Rolling rolling rolling

Catch myself
At the last possible moment
Arm caught on a pipe or railing
Pulling myself back up on the roof
Feel the pull of the new direction
Pause and watch
The old train
Tear off into the distance

Carefully inch my way over

Lower myself down
Through the new emergency hatch

I knew the second after I let him in, this was it
For him I will give up my friends
For him I will give up my children

For him I will give up my god
Tear it all down
Drown the house
Burn the family

Later

He will catch me
Staring out our new window
Gazing at our new view
He will pull me down on our new bed
Wrap me in our new clean sheets
Kiss my bruises

Maybe I will stack the blocks back up
Maybe someday his friends will be my friends
Maybe someday his children will love me
Maybe someday his gods will forgive me
If they don't then so what
I don't care
I love the feel of new me lying next to him

Wait,

Who are
You
To question
Me
Anyway?

