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Three Poems

by April Salzano

Toothache

It is not 2007, the year the roots were ripped out
of my molar, the year when everything felt
like an exposed nerve. I opted out of the crown
and everything came tumbling after—my marriage,
my love of dogs, the death of my father. A scavenger
swooped in to pick the remaining meat from my carcass.
It wasn't supposed to hurt. I was already dead.
That pain was specific, like a hole drilled to relieve
pressure, but the geyser of infection burst
inward. I revised and rebuilt, brushed and flossed
diligently for the next seven years, paid off the grand
it cost to fix the tooth I thought I was saving
by leaving it rootless, a figurehead, an ornament.
The root canal failed. The ache is back. Turns out
it is not dead after all, which is a bit misleading
and more than a little uncomfortable.

The World is Melting

What is left when we have been betrayed by cold?
Nothing but mud. A guitar plays background
music, sad and building into disruptive crying.
Add a drum beat and a river and you have the recipe
for perfectly pathetic fallacy. Who knows what
we will be come spring when the rain spills
over all the things that have died.

The Snake I Didn't See

trapped in the chicken wire surrounding
the garden, cut free by my second husband
because snakes eat bugs, part
of the natural order of things,
is, in my mind, infinitely superior
to the snake of my first marriage.
Standing tall in my bed
of flowers, she was an obvious symbol
of the forbidden fruit
my first husband bit, swallowed,
consumed, and tried to pass off

Editor's Note

as part of the natural course of events.

Guidelines

Contact

April Salzano teaches college writing in Pennsylvania where she lives with her husband and two sons. She is currently working on a memoir on raising a child with autism and several collections of poetry. Her work has been twice nominated for a Pushcart Award and has appeared in journals such as *Convergence*, *Ascent Aspirations*, *The Camel Saloon*, *Centrifugal Eye*, *Deadsnakes*, *Visceral Uterus*, *Salome*, *Poetry Quarterly*, *Writing Tomorrow* and *Rattle*. The author also serves as co-editor at Kind of a Hurricane Press (www.kindofahurricanepress.com).

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