

[Home](#)

[Summer 2006](#)

[Spring 2006](#)

[Winter 2006](#)

[Fall 2005](#)

[Summer 2005](#)

[Spring 2005](#)

[Winter 2005](#)

[Editor's Note](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[SNR's Writers](#)

[Mail](#)

# THREE POEMS

BY SAMANTHA ZIGHEBOIM

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## Dream #1

While a white lily unfurls a white lie about a heatless and heartless summer, we are sweating under city lights on a rooftop somewhere in Manhattan. Above us the cool odor of extinct evenings perfumes the lily-white starlight that is not as bright as the mascara smudges under your eyes, though frighteningly close. There are white lilies and white envelopes containing blackened letters sprouting up from the concrete beneath your feet and you hop around like hopscotch avoiding the poisonous weeds.

## Two Dreams about Emily Dickinson

I.

You are tending to your black-eyed  
orchids and sticky-stemmed gladiolas  
and I am hiding behind a whispering  
blackberry bush hoping you will prune  
the wrong branch and discover me there,  
waiting.

Somewhere it begins to rain.  
You are laughing because you've forgotten  
something behind the gardenias and I say,  
no, silly! you haven't forgotten a thing—it's  
all right there in that puddle below your  
window.

II.

In the same room that bore the entire body  
of your poems we are laying on a sofette  
upholstered in white linens and your breath  
is thick against my neck as you weave  
quatrains into my curls.

The lace skirts underneath your petticoat

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Are peeking through and I am fixated  
on the milky-white crevice inside your  
left knee where I know your next poem  
will be written.

## **I'm Not Saying**

I'm not  
saying  
that I  
don't  
still remember  
you  
not  
remembering  
me.  
Neither  
here  
nor  
there  
would your  
letters  
not be  
restless,  
not  
marching  
out of shoeboxes  
like autumn  
without

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fires  
without  
ash--  
I'm not  
saying  
because I  
didn't  
say at all.

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**Samantha Zigelboim** is a Venezuelan-American poet and translator. She recently graduated with a BFA in Writing for Publication, Performance and Media from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, where she specialized in poetry, short fiction and creative translation. Previously, Sam studied at El Instituto de Diseño de Caracas in Caracas, Venezuela, majoring in graphic communications. She is the managing editor of *Rattapallax*, a journal of international poetry. Her translations have been published in *Rattapallax*. She currently lives in New York City.

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