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TWO POEMS

BY JESSAMYN SMYTH

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aubade

Red squirrels get it on like rabbits
right outside my window, right above
my pillow, practically inside my sleeping
head, screaming and chittering and banging
branches like it's going out of style, the god
damned Salvation Army of red squirrels fucking
like bunnies at the crack of dawn, while the cold rabbits
and I get a resentment, and stick our heads deeper under cover,
just hoping for another hour, maybe two, of now-impossible sleep.

elegy

A dead mouse this morning: splayed on its belly,
a diver frozen mid-leap, a floater in a dry pond.

The ritual of summer begins, in spite of ice: the remonstrations
with the cat, the dustpan, apology, a final flight into brambles.

Jessamyn Smyth's Pushcart Prize nominated short story "A More Perfect Union" is in *American Letters and Commentary*, Issue 17 (November 2005), "Dancer" was released in *For Here or To Go: Stories from the Service Industry* (Garret County Press, 2004), and her prize-winning short story "Blue Plastic Menorah" appeared in *Jewish Education News*, Spring 2004. Her short one-act plays *Main Street Love Song*, *Wolves*, *Wake*, and *Paper Moon* have been produced by Naked Theatre and The Paul Alexander Gallery, and her poetry and essays appear in various print and electronic journals. Her play *The Importance of Being Wild* was the first commissioned work produced by The Shea Theater, and premiered in 2004 (reprised with Boston's Playwright's Platform in 2005). Her play *Jenny Haniver* premiered at The Shea Theatre stage in the 2006 Playwright's Festival of New Works (reprised in Brattleboro, Vermont at The Church). Her newest play, *Hedda Gabler Has Left The Building*, is slated for production by Arena Civic Theater in June 2007. Smyth is a 2004 grant recipient of the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference. She is the founder of Basilisk Productions in Western Massachusetts, and teaches writing. She earned her MFA at Goddard College.

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