PRAYER DOWN DEPOT ROAD

I can't sleep, America.
The coal cars vibrate, bulky
behind the roadhouse where I stay,
drum by the room at midnight.
At one. Rattle past this insomnia.
A yellow moon stares in the windows.
Spotlight on dreams twisted in a cotton bedcover.
The yellow moon over the railroad shed
shines down the lanky clotheslines,
across cornfields that look like glory
look like patchwork brown flags.
I can't sleep, America.
I can't sleep as if anything matters.
Sing me a song yellow moon.
An enamel fan, painted-chipped,
whirs the smell of diesel mixed with the sea—
an America poem poem
poem
blowing in & out of my face.

Midwest Review 5

more of the best contemporary writing and art from the Midwest: new work by Catie Rosemurgy, Ryan J. Browne, Bonnie Jill Emanuel, Robert Hedin, Evelyn Reynolds, Dylan Krieger, W. P. Osborn, Lorain Urban, Vincent Wixon, Rick Graves, David Giroux, Patrick Carr, and Catherine Young.

BUY

Bonnie Jill Emanuel
First appeared in *Midwest Review,* 5
Nominated for a Pushcart Prize