

The Survival Expo

Caki Wilkinson

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An associate professor of English at Rhodes College, Caki Wilkinson lives in Memphis, Tennessee. She is the author of two other collections, *Circles Where the Head Should Be* and *The Wynona Stone Poems*.

STICK MAN SONG

*You were born outdoors,
your arm tethered to
a single balloon
the white sky blew through.*

*Its string stretched taller
than your stalk of spine,
and all you wanted
was another line:*

*a river, a snake,
a thin plume of smoke—
some proof there's a world
with wind in its spokes.*

*But lack bends to lack,
the last asymptote.
You'd need a chimney,
a garden, a boat.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (July / August 2021)

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