



## 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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