

Dissonance

Slow, lazy day.
Dry heat.
The breeze blows gently.

This is the kind of heat
that makes me want to
lie in bed

inside where it's cool
with a book
and a Coke . . .

not kneel in a ditch
as dry weeds poke
between my toes

next to the 19-year-old boy
crying beneath, crushed beneath
the heavy red metal.

I wipe his tears
and shove a tube
into his nose.

Machines work loudly
and abrasively
until the van is off his legs.

The young man is free
and so is his life
leaving

with the thick warm blood
that trickles
down his cheek.

Rachel A. Davis, MD

Dr. Davis (A&A, University of Colorado, 2005) is a psychiatrist in private practice and attending psychiatrist in Psychiatric Emergency Services at Denver Health Medical Center. Her address is: 8158 E. 5th Avenue, Suite 200, Denver, Colorado 80230. E-mail: racheldavismd@gmail.com.

Illustration by Erica Aitken