



Distractions

it's something e

Summer Sunset

Driving over hill and plain
Past rippling brooks splashed by rain
The countless trees stand tall and proud
Each as unique as every cloud.

And in their leafy, up stretch
The birds sing all in harmony
To see the flowers on the ground
Bowling to His Majesty

Beyond them
Who keep
All creat
Joytull

Ball of flame
Hiding game,
West,
West.

Paterson -

the Course

ays

And then

Course. I would

They

But

I can deal

You get used

Adapt over

But still

Eighteen days

From acquaintances

To good friends

To acquaintances

Call Guinness

Not the draught

It's a new personal best

Oh well boys

Drink up

Who needs frineds

When you've got

Drinking buddies?

Drink up

submitted anonymously

Before Winter Comes

This is not a poem.
This is not about caterpillars
That ate every leaf on our
Hillside, leaving trees as
Barren as Auschwitz's
Stripped and Starved
Prey.

This is not about Ashurbanipal
Nor the trigger and the bang,
Nor even about the caterpillars
That don't chew as silently
As a sun rises.

- Dan Lukiv -

Did your boy or girlfriend recently break up with you? Are you feeling creative? Want to let the campus know how much you love, miss or hate your ex? Write a poem or short story and drop it off at the Bruns Office and your name will go down in the annals of scorned lovers.

Highways and Dancehalls
by Diana Atkinson
Vintage Canada 235 pages

One of the most remarkable things about Diana Atkinson's first novel, *Highways and Dancehalls*, is that it's not sensationalistic. What else would we expect from a book about a young girl's experience working as a stripper? Hoisting, hollering, grimy sex and a painful descent into society's ugly basement: movie-of-the-week material for a daring network? No. Instead, Atkinson delivers a beautifully-written story, great Canadian literature about a stripper. Sensational, not sensationalistic.

Highways and Dancehalls is Sarah's journal of over two years on the road in British Columbia, working as a stripper. When she begins, she is just seventeen years old, a high school dropout who feels incapable of succeeding as a waitress. She needs a job so she signs on as an exotic dancer and begins taking buses around the province, working in different strip clubs and sending her pay back to Lloyd, her shiftless, druggie boyfriend.

But money is not Sarah's only motivation. The answer to the inevitable question, 'why would any intelligent young woman get caught in such a vocation?' is more complex than movies might have us believe. Atkinson provides that answer with subtlety and striking courage. Though the choices Sarah makes are not always understandable, they are always recognisable as real and human; her experience is fundamentally not that unusual. Her parents are attentive and educated, although their divorce is a defining event in Sarah's life. She is careful about the job of stripping, wanting to do it well, and for the most part resisting the pitfalls of drug use, alcoholism and prostitution.

Sarah develops a fascinating kind of love-hate attitude toward her job. Along with the satisfaction of finding an occupation that she's good at comes a frightening loss of self. One night after her set, a member of the audience compliments her: "Hey baby, a cute sturdy-looking blond guy in tight Levis said to me. 'That was out of this world. Real erection material.' In real life you'd slap the guy's face. I think. I can't remember."

While she does seem to get lost in this underworld, she also manages to find herself there. Instead of gravitating toward men as many insecure women do, Sarah develops transient relationships with fellow strippers, women who often seem worse off than she does.

It must have taken an element of fearlessness on Atkinson's part to write *Highways and Dancehalls*. Now studying at Concordia University, she worked as a stripper for several years. It's inspiring to discover this story not as a movie-of-the-week, but as an extremely well-written novel. The truth is out there.

- Mary Rogal-Black

Twin-Pack



15 PROSPECT ST
453-1400

SPECIAL

2 - 12" PIZZAS
WITH 3 TOPPINGS

Includes tax and delivery
to campus only.

\$12.99



100 REGENT ST
458-1800

DINE IN • TAKE OUT • DELIVERY
OPEN 24 HOURS