

## CRIME & PUNISHMENT

they kissed 3 times a year  
once on the lips at christmas and  
once each on the cheek for birthdays

and sometimes when he'd pass by  
as she leaned over the filing cabinet  
he'd gently pat her fanny

she sort of liked it  
and sort of  
didn't

then one day she read a book  
and then she went to a meeting  
and then to a convention

and then  
he patted  
her fanny

she tried to have him arrested  
but managed only to get him fired  
and destroy his marriage

— Dan Nielsen

Racine WI

## KAFKA DEBUGS MY LIFE

I've never been able,  
after reading Kafka,  
to take cockroaches  
seriously, seeing them  
always as tiny Czech men  
turned upside-down  
and forgotten.

## IF WISHES WERE FELINE

Having a cat named Godot  
does not make me Beckett,  
but it's a start.  
If only my words were as  
heavy as my cat.

— Michelle Rhea

Dallas TX