

ABSTRACT

Author: Amina Rustemovic

Title: *The Creak In The Floorboards, The Howl Of The Wind: A Collection Of Poems*

Thesis Advisor: Jeffery Mock

Department: Department of English

Year: 2022

This collection of poems explores themes of both physical and metaphorical transience, ephemerality, heartbreak, and identity. Where does one belong in the world? Is there such a place for them? Maybe it is found in the creak in the floorboards, or the scattering of the leaves in autumn, or tucked away in the Appalachians; perhaps it's found in the seats of a Greyhound. These poems follow several speakers through long train, car, and bus rides, and even just a living room floor, examining feelings of alienation, displacement, and dissociation. Ultimately, one can find themselves in just about anything, even in the unlikeliest of places, like between the cracks in the sidewalk; they could even find that that place may not be just a single one.