



2009

Less Than a Whisper Poem

Pattiann Rogers

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rogers, Pattiann. "Less Than a Whisper Poem." *The Iowa Review* 39.1 (2009): 10-11. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6625>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

PATTIANN ROGERS

Less Than a Whisper Poem

no sound above a nod,
nothing louder than one wilted
thread of sunflower gold dropping
to a lower leaf

nothing more jarring
than the transparent slide of a raindrop
slicking down the furrow of a mossy
trunk

slightly less audible than the dip
and rock of a kite string lost and caught
on a snag of oak

no message
more profound than December edging
stiffly through the ice terminal
of the solstice

nothing more riotous
than a cold lump of toad watching
like a stone for a wing of diaphanous
light to pass, as still as a possum's
feint

no message more profane than
three straws of frost-covered grass leaning
together on an empty dune

a quiet more
silent than a locked sacristy at midnight,
more vacant than the void of an ancient
scripture lost at sea

no sound, not even
a sigh the width of one scale of a white
moth's wing, not even a hush the length
of a candle's blink

nothing,
even less than an imagined finger held
to imagined lips