

woman, the power relations involved in the evaluating gaze upon the sexualized, genderized, and racialized woman-athlete may be uncovered.

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SHOSHAUNA SHY

So Long

There was no reason for her disappearance
in the middle of the day at the start
of the children's long summer vacation,
soda glass sweating on the windowsill,
basket spilling bed sheets under the clothesline,
overalls hanging from one strap mid-pin.
The daughter's braces had just been removed

and she was waiting in the parking lot
for her ride home, the first trickle of menses
staining her thighs. The twins were skateboarding
down Skance Avenue having just left the mall
with stolen merchandise. At try-outs the oldest
collided with the keeper, had trouble making it
off the field on his own.
After 16 hours, everybody was convinced

she had been met at the doorstep
by some deranged stranger, tricked into leaving
for a troubled neighbor, sick cocker spaniel,
suicidal friend. The porch see-sawed
with tight-lipped policemen, in-laws and brothers,
womenfolk wailing, blustery *I bet's* tossed out
to excuse her. No one noticed her husband

sat stone-still on their bed, her *So Long* folded
into the heel of his shoe, her wedding ring wearing
a hole through his palm.

Shoshauna Shy's poems have recently appeared in Poetry Northwest, West Wind Review and the Comstock Review. One of her poems was chosen for the Library of Congress's project "Poetry 180: A Poem a Day for American High Schools" launched by U.S. Poet Laureate, Billy Collins.