

What Little I Know About Color Theory

Brianne Agnizle

At the gas station, I'm not going to think about complicated things. I'm just going to fill this empty car tank with fuel and be seen being simple, just another person who doesn't have to walk if they don't want to. \$2.85 a gallon this afternoon. I pull around on a meter to the right, not to the left, side of my car. Parking at pump 1 this time, looks like. That's a number for winners, ha. I push my card into the chip reader, take it back, and select the regular 87 option. That gas costs the least amount of money. \$2.85, I've seen better, I think to myself, lifting the nozzle into my car's fuel cavity. And I've seen worse. I go to squeeze the spring on the handle of the pump, timing the release of my finger for a perfect \$10.00 charge. I try every time

I stop for gas, but it never happens.
I'll always hit something like \$9.97
then give it another rapid jolt and get
something like \$10.03. Up in the sky
in the distance, I see orange and blue
storefront signs and I think about color
theory, how science says your brain
can only focus on one color at a time
when they have a complimentary
relationship. Oh, god damn it. \$10.39.
Might as well try for a perfect \$11.00,
and if that doesn't work, a perfect
\$12.00. At 2, the pump beside me, a
man sets the nozzle into his truck's
fuel cavity and leaves it to run on
its own as he backs away and leans
against the passenger's side door
with his arms stretched back behind
his head, waiting for the tank to fill.
He must have a lot of things going on
in his life, more than I ever have.
\$13.47. Ugh, what an ugly number.
But it'll get me home. I walk back

around into the driver's seat and see
the man reach over to catch the nozzle
at a perfect \$10.00 charge. Jesus
Christ. I hope things get better for
him soon.

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Brianne Agnizle lives and works out of a purple office in west Michigan. Her work can be found in *The Central Review*, *South 85*, *The Void*, and “Sip Cup” of *Trnsfr Books*. She holds an MFA from Western New England University. Brianne enjoys just about everything.

Favorite poem: Yusef Komunyakaa, “Venus’-flytraps”