I was never happier than I was during the late summer flipping burgers for school children in tennis shoes slapping trading cards from the back of a trailer / After eighteen rides around the sun in a metaphysical tilt-a-whirl called the lower middle class my parents were smart enough to play dumb when asked questions about the universe / So I looked for answers in books about adventurers & monuments built for folks who stuck their little flags in their own neighbor's back yards & declared themselves the hero / But a trunk packed full of books weighs the caravan down so I had them wiped of their words / Waved goodbye to mum & dad & ruffled down to the boardwalk to find a freighter looking for a sailor gullible enough to leave happiness behind at the harbor / It wasn't like I was good at much just tying knots & casual conversation & the occasional slight of hand / Magicians who use mirrors & reflective floor to hold their audiences gaze are easy to come by & sure a grand spectacle can be beautiful if you have money to pour into machines & pyrotechnics / But I've always preferred looking into someone's eyes while holding their hands & reciting back to them their life which I read from the lines in their face & they way their voice trembles when you ask but are you happy? / So I let an unhappy woman buy me a balloon & we took it around county fairs where I turned coin purses into a trailer full of trinkets & mild hangovers & I watched the children who raise their parents pigs for slaughter grow into parents themselves / Essentially back where I started / So forgive me for taking advantage of a gale who blew me off course & threw me into a land who's politics are so disheveled their empire awaits an infanta's nap to end before the next drought or famine or war of the witches / They called me a wizard & let me feed them stories of greatness only powerful men have seen / Is that really all that different than the way the witches were managing affairs here before me? / At least when they land their brooms in my town they're seen as green as everyone else through my emerald tinted glasses.