



*Paper Mill Press*

## Theories and Applications

Samantha Fitzpatrick

my critical analysis has become overbearing  
 taking things that aren't fucked up,  
 twisting them, distorting them, feeding on the lie of them  
 that isn't there.  
 leaving me with empty hands,  
 a full-brimmed breast,  
 and a skull cracked down the center;  
 but what's at the center of all this?

well! my education!

i've got a brain too sponge-like  
 absorbing the words that spill out into theory,  
 a heedless ambition checking out the query  
 in practical application,  
 which i practically don't understand -  
 evidently.  
 applying theory after theory to my small-town, tiny life  
 as if every indecision was a monumental strife  
 and my friends are looking at me like  
 "wow, this bitch is crazy"  
 and i'm defenseless.  
 a defenseless, crazy bitch  
 wrapped up in a world that exists inside her head  
 alone  
 and no one's there and no one's listening to the ravings of a mad-  
 man  
 because why would they?  
 that story's only profitable when we can fictionalize it,  
 compartmentalize it and observe it from a safe distance.  
 real life ignores that madman, crazy bitch  
 because freedom of speech is just one of those  
 theories.

44

## Bastard

Samantha Fitzpatrick

I've got l  
 Float aw  
 Yet some  
 So that I  
 So that I  
 This stas  
 It's invas  
 Pervasive  
 But it's p  
 And you  
 You are 1  
 The one  
 to save,  
 but also  
 in the da  
 Black.  
 But thes  
 All in ex  
 somethi  
 This is tl  
 Chaotic  
 so tear n

