

LAUREN K. CARLSON

Due Season

Once barren, the
dream breaks
into cornfields,
machinery reaping life.

The rumbling earth-shatter
of harvesters startles
the sleeping housewife
whose frantic hands fan
in all directions. She clings
to the bed sheets.

All she sees is dark black earth,
an empty field, grain-trailer after
grain-trailer, hauling the harvest
to the elevator, the shadow of dust
haunting the gravel road.

She remembers.
It was there all along. Her neighbor's
house appearing now after the
cornstalks are flattened, plowed
back under the field.

Am I, too, like her?

Gripping the bed
while the house shakes,
scared of whatever it was
that disturbed my sleep
and opened my eyes?

Am I scanning
the horizon to find

what was forgotten?

Disappointed to see a house
and not a barren land,
where I was the only thing
wild and alive.



ABOUT LAUREN K. CARLSON

Lauren Carlson received an MA in English literature from Grand Valley State University, and she currently works as a spiritual director. Her writing has appeared in *Friction: Review*, *Blue Heron Review*, *Mothers Always Write*, and *Howl*. In partnership with Pioneer Public Television she is producing a webcast entitled “Poems from the Field,” which uses poetry to explore the creative and spiritual life of rural Minnesotans. She is also teaching a haiku workshop for New London’s Riverspace Project with funding provided by ArtPlace America. She lives in Dawson, Minnesota. Online at laurenkcarlson.com.

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