

*David Foster Wallace***Peoria (4)**

Past the flannel plains and blacktop graphs and skylines of canted rust, and past the tobacco-brown river overhung with weeping trees and coins of sunlight through them on the water downriver, to the place beyond the windbreak, where untilled fields simmer shrilly in the A.M. heat: shattercane, lambsquarter, cutgrass, saw brier, nutgrass, jimsonweed, wild mint, dandelion, foxtail, spinecabbage, goldenrod, creeping charlie, butterprint, nightshade, ragweed, wild oat, vetch, butcher grass, invaginate volunteer beans, all heads nodding in a soft morning breeze like a mother's hand on your cheek. An arrow of starlings fired from the windbreak's thatch. The glitter of dew that stays where it is and steams all day. A sunflower, four more, one bowed, and horses in the distance standing rigid as toys. All nodding. Electric sounds of insects at their business. Ale-colored sunshine and pale sky and whorls of cirrus so high they cast no shadow. Insects all business all the time. Quartz and chert and schist and chondrite iron scabs in granite. Very old land. Look around you. The horizon trembling, shapeless. We are all of us brothers.

Some crows come overhead then, four, silent with intent, on the wing, corn-bound for the pasture's wire, where one horse smells at the other's behind, the lead horse's tail obligingly lifted. Your shoes' brand incised in the dew. An alfalfa breeze. Socks' burrs. Dry scratching inside a culvert. Rusted wire and canted posts more a symbol of restraint than a fence per se. **NO HUNTING.** The shush of the interstate off past the windbreak. The pasture's crows standing at angles, turning up patties to get at the worms underneath, the shapes of the worms incised in the overturned dung and baked by the sun all day until hardened, there to stay, tiny vacant lines in rows and inset curls that do not close because head never quite touches tail. Read these.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elizabeth Alexander is the author of *The Venus Hottentot* (University of Virginia Press, 1990) and *Body of Life* (Tia Chucha Press, 1996) and *Antebellum Dreambook* (Graywolf, 2001). She is Visiting Lecturer in the Department of African-American Studies at Yale University. **David Altshuler's** art is appearing in print for the first time. **Andrea Barrett** is the author of five novels and two collections of stories, the second of which, *Servants of the Map*, will be published by W. W. Norton in January 2002. **Stephen Benz** has published two travel narratives, *Guatemalan Journey* (University of Texas Press, 1996) and *Green Dreams* (Lonely Planet, 1998). **Diann Blakely's** most recent collection of poems is *Farewell, My Lovelies* (Consortium, 2000). **Richard Blanco's** first book of poetry, *City of a Hundred Fires*, won the 1997 University of Pittsburgh Agnes Starrett Prize. **Robert Bly's** most recent books are *The Night Abraham Called to the Stars* (Harper Collins, 2001) and a book of translations (with Sunil Dutta) of the Indian poet Ghalib (Ecco Press, 1999). **Catherine Bowman** is the author of two collections of poetry, *1-800-HOT-RIBS* (1993) and *Rock Farm* (1996), both from Gibbs Smith. **Susan Briante's** poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *New American Writing*, *Quarterly West*, the *Marlboro Review*, and other journals. The poems, "Cintas," were inspired by translations of Aztec metaphors and proverbs. **Nick Carbo's** latest book of poems is *Secret Asian Man* (Tia Chucha Press, 2000).

Jim Daniels's most recent books include *Blue Jesus* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2000) and *No Pets* (Bottom Dog Press, 1999). **Greg Delanty's** latest books of poems are *The Hellbox* (Oxford University Press, 1998) and *The Blind Stitch* (Oxford Series, Carcanet Press, 2001; due out from Louisiana State University Press, 2002). **John Dufresne** is the author of *Louisiana Power & Light* (Plume, 1995) and the forthcoming *Deep in the Shade of Paradise*. **Denise Duhamel's** most recent book is *Queen for the Day: Selected and New Poems* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000). She is a recipient of a 2001 NEA fellowship in poetry. **Peter Fallon** is the author of *News of the World Selected Poems* (Wake Forest University Press, 1993) and the editor (with Derek Mahon) of the *Penguin Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry* (Penguin, 1991). **Albert Goldbarth** is a recipient of the National Book Critics Circle Award. His most recent books are the poetry collection, *Saving Lives* (Ohio State University Press, 2001), and *Many Circles: New and Selected Essays* (Graywolf Press, 2001). **Eamon Grennan's** most recent books are *Relations: New and Selected Poems* (Graywolf, 1998) and a collection of essays, *Facing the Music: Irish Poetry in the Twentieth Century* (Creighton University Press, 1999). **Vona Groarke's** previous collections of poetry are *Shale* (1994) and *Other People's Houses* (1999), both from Gallery Press. **Mark Halliday's** books of poems are *Little Star* (William Morrow & Co., 1987), *Tasker Street* (University of

Massachusetts Press, 1992) and *Selfwolf* (University of Chicago Press, 1999). **Barbara Hamby's** second book of poems, *The Alphabet of Desire* (New York University Press, 1999), won the New York University Prize for Poetry. **Kerry Hardie** is the author of the poetry collections, *A Furious Place* (1996) and *Cry for the Hot Belly* (2000), both from Gallery Press. Her first novel is *Hannie Benner's Winter Marriage* (Harper Collins, 2000). **James Harms** is the author of three books of poems, *Modern Ocean* (1992), *The Joy Addict* (1998) and *Quarters* (2001). **Michael Hettich** has published two books of poetry and a number of chapbooks, most recently *Sleeping with the Lights On* (Pudding House, 2000) and *Singing with my Father* (March Street, 2001). **Tony Hoagland's** most recent book is *Donkey Gospel* (Graywolf, 1998). He teaches in the University of Pittsburgh writing program. **Ben Howard's** most recent books are a verse novella, *Midcentury* (Salmon Publishing, 1997), and *The Pressed Melodeon: Essays on Modern Irish Writing* (Story Line Press, 1996). *Dark Pool: Poems 1994–2001* is forthcoming from Salmon. **David Kirby's** collection of poetry, *The House of the Blue Light*, was published by Louisiana State University Press (2000). His poems have been chosen for *Best American Poetry 2000* and a 2001 Pushcart Prize. **J. O. Lane** is the founder of the religious massage practice known as Johnnyatsu. **Li-Young Lee** is the author of three books of poems, *The City in Which I Love You* (1991), *Rose* (1993) and *Book of My Nights* (2001), all from BOA Editions, and the book-length autobiographical prose poem, *The Winged Seed* (Ruminator Books, 2000). **Lisa Lewis's** two books are *The Unbeliever* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1995) and *Silent Treatment* (Pen-

guin, 1998). **James Liddy's** recent books are his *Collected Poems* (Creighton University Press, 1995) and *Gold Set Dancing* (Salmon Press, 2000). **Kristina Martinez's** work has appeared most recently in *Spoon River*, *Poetry Review*, and *Yemassee*. **Campbell McGrath** is a 1999 MacArthur Fellow. His most recent collection is *Florida Poems* (Harper Collins, 2002). **Medbh McGuckian** teaches creative writing at Queen's University in Belfast. Her most recent collection of poetry is *Shelmalier* (Wake Forest University Press, 1998). **Lisette Mendez** lives in Miami Beach, Florida, where she is at work on a memoir about the Mariel boatlift. **Nicole Moustaki** is the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing Poetry* (April 2001, Alpha Books). **Jim Murphy's** chapbook, *The Memphis Sun*, won the Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Award and was published by Kent State University Press (2000). **Conor O'Callaghan** has published two collections of poetry in Ireland, *The History of Rain* (1993) and *Seatown* (1999). A selection from both collections, *Seatown and Earlier Poems*, was published by Wake Forest University Press (2000). **Mary O'Donnell's** most recent novel is *The Elysium Treatment* (Trident Press, 2000). **Dennis O'Driscoll's** five collections of poetry include *Weather Permitting* (Anvil Press, 1999). He received a Lannan Literary Award in 1999. **William Olsen** has published three collections of poetry, *The Hand of God and a Few Bright Flowers* (University of Illinois Press, 1998) and *Vision of a Storm Cloud* (TriQuarterly Books, 1996), and *Trouble Lights* (TriQuarterly Books, 2001). **Micheal O'Siadhail's** ten collections of poetry include his most recent, *Our Double Time* (Bloodaxe, 1998), and a new selection of earlier work, *Poems 1975–95: Hail! Madam Jazz and A Fragile City*

(Bloodaxe, 1999). **David Rivard's** most recent book is *Bewitched Playground* (Graywolf, 2000). He won the James Laughlin Prize from the Academy of American Poets for *Wise Poison* (Graywolf, 1996). **Polly Roberts'** work has appeared in the *Antioch Review*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, and the *Paterson Literary Review*. **Hugo Rodriguez** is a firefighter and paramedic in Miami, Florida. His poetry has appeared in *Mid-American Review*, *International Poetry Review*, and other journals. **Aidan Rooney-Céspedes** won the 1997 W.B. Yeats Poetry Competition and the Sunday Tribune/Hennessy Cognac Award for New Irish Poetry. His poetry has appeared in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Brangle*, *College English* and *Metre*. **Angela Schlaud** is an artist living in Evanston, IL. **Bill Tinley** has published widely in journals in Europe and North America. He won the 1996 Patrick Kavanaugh Award. **Eamonn Wall's** most recent books are *The Crosses* (Salmon, 2000) and *From the Sine Café to*

the Black Hills: Notes on the New Irish (University of Wisconsin Press, 2000). **David Foster Wallace**, author of *Infinite Jest* and other works, has recently been appointed Disney Professor of Creative Writing at Pomona College. **Martin Walls'** collection of poetry, *Human Detail in Care of National Trust*, was published by New Issues Press (2001). **Charles Harper Webb's** most recent book is *Tulip Farms and Leper Colonies* (BOA Editions, fall 2001). *Liver* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1999) won the Felix Pollak Prize. **Lydia Webster's** work has appeared in *Quarterly West*, *Salt Hill*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Willow Review*, and *Story-Quarterly*. **David Wheatley's** two collections of poetry are *Thirst* (1997) and *Misery Hill* (2000). He co-edits the journal, *Metre*, and writes on poetry for the *Times Literary Supplement*, *London Review of Books*, and the *Irish Times*. A native of Jamaica, **Debra Woolley** currently lives in Miami. This is her first publication.