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Ode to a Cowboy

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ASHLEY HALM

Ode to a Cowboy

You insist you'd rather be a ghost
Wandering untethered from one place to the next
And I think maybe I used to believe that too.

But I also think that people can be resting places
Soft spots to land, to hang up your hat
And be washed of the day's dust.

A soft spot can be hard to show
Because that's where the arrows find you
And leave you with scars that sparkle like spurs.

In the five o clock shadows and seven o clock sunsets
We lend the pieces of ourselves we can afford to lose
Until we are tangled together like so many old reins.

I think if there is a god
He makes cowboys two of a kind
And scatters them over the desert in the hot sand.

The chances of finding each other
Before the animals do are slim
But maybe this is the oasis.