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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.