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## Cloud-low BluegrassPortrait

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# Cloud-low Bluegrass Portrait

Out from under arches in Saint Louis  
she echoes clear to the east,  
standing in a wine-lit prairie expanse,  
singular and urgent as a silhouette.

My old friend will not miss tomato season.

She uprooted and drifts now, pulled through  
the sixth-month sex of the flatlands;  
shy under brush blankets, the wildflowers low  
and her dress, worn soft dog-eared like a violet  
bellows everything should be homespun..

In summer sweat straw hair turns a pale autumn;  
brown sticks like corn-wisps over eye corners  
as she turns earth with heel and toe-nail teeth  
where getting clean is easier than gripping water.

I broom dust out of my garage,  
watch bag worms feed, motionless  
suck a plumb to the pit to pass the dusk, beg  
to extend her days in the bushes.

*By Emily Kay Carson*