

## Sixty Stories

### "Bails"

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Fields as flat as the expression on your face  
Last I saw you.  
Those harvest leaves, these slaughtered rows  
Of sticks and stones and corn stalks.  
And the best things of you are hardest to  
Hardest to remember:  
Your callused hands and the smell of the soil  
The smell of the soil stained on them.  
It's kind of cold, but comforting  
To have something like your old boots  
And collections of buckles and calendars  
To remember you by.

As the truck pulls out the air brakes tighten  
And release again with a sharp noise  
I am jarred awake out of bed again  
Bed again until you're gone.  
Still, the best things of you are hardest to  
Hardest to remember:  
Your nods and grins and the mysterious things  
Mysterious things you believed in.  
It's kind of cold, but comforting  
To have something like your old boots  
And collections of buckles and calendars  
To remember you by.  
If there were only a thousand kilometers  
To get me from where you are  
I would suffer a different sense of loss,  
Maybe one that I could live with.

Little kids in older skin  
Don't make mistakes less often.  
I can't believe how alone I feel  
Or how young I was when I lost him.  
Bails of straw,  
The belief in God  
Or getting new shoes each spring-  
-as if a cosmic cause,  
Or luxury  
Can account for our suffering.

It's kind of cold, but comforting  
To have something like your old boots  
And collections of buckles and calendars  
To remember you by.  
(Bails of straw)(Bails of straw)  
If there were only a thousand kilometers  
To get me from where you are  
I would suffer a different sense of loss,  
Maybe one that I could live with.  
(Bails of straw) (Bails of straw)  
It's kind of cold, but comforting  
To have something like your old boots  
And collections of buckles and calendars  
To remember you by.  
To remember you by. [x3]

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