

Tyler, Texas

2 out of towners
 in the sharp grasses
 white churches
not a hair feels out of place
 They say the next county over
 from Smith is wet
You go around Ben Wheeler
Through dumb-fuck White House
Back over Black Beauty Ravine
 Drink till mothers due
 back at the home (for memory care)
for a random viewing of Eastside-Westside, 1949
 (Where Stanwyck and Ava Gardner step into the same picture)
Finally alone together
more arrowhead hunting
We are fuses left scorched under lavender skies
 where Karen Carpenter's longest note
 is broken in half. Near dark I shot what I thought
 was a long stick
and didn't check back for two days
 It was a water moccasin
 head all blown off
and caved in
 slick as snot