



5-1-2017

## No One Can Lift Away

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### Recommended Citation

Cleary, Cleary (2017) "No One Can Lift Away," *Westview*: Vol. 33: Iss. 1, Article 24.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol33/iss1/24>

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# No One Can Lift Away

by Eileen Cleary

A drought-brown morning and dead  
cattle drape fissured land. Earth  
bakes to puzzle pieces whose heft  
no one can lift away. Arms  
thin as strings bind accordion ribs.  
Her wrinkled babyhood unfolds  
as bony fingers drum tympani  
on her fasted belly grown round.  
For the one-year-old with an empty bowl,  
a memory of water.

