



11-15-2000

Trying to Understand Bad Luck

Ryan G. Van Cleave

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Van Cleave, Ryan G. (2000) "Trying to Understand Bad Luck," *Westview*: Vol. 20 : Iss. 1 , Article 22.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol20/iss1/22>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

Trying to Understand Bad Luck

by Ryan G. Van Cleave

Think of all luck
As a gap-toothed grandpa
Whose skin is two sizes too big
Both eyes little more than cataracts
And he's throwing a game of darts

Bullseyes are terribly scarce
And numbers too low to matter
Are all he can usually manage
But the occasional double twenty
Or triple sixteen still get hit

So when every little thing
Seems destined to go against you
Just imagine that the dart tips
Are too blunt to stick any longer

Listen—you can hear him fumbling
For a sharpening stone



Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

