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## he doesn't believe / Western Oklahoma Dirt

Lu Spurlock

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# he doesn't believe

— Lu Spurlock

he doesn't believe

in gambling

cards and dice  
are sinful  
a way to waste  
hard-earned cash

yet  
he borrows money  
to plant  
dry-land cotton

year after year



ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA LEACH

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# WESTERN OKLAHOMA DIRT

— Lu Spurlock

blew yesterday  
the sky rained mud  
flattened ripe wheat

weatherbeaten  
tightfisted  
farmers tasted  
lost hope

today the old  
seductress sun  
glistens on  
golden spreads

apologizes  
promises better days  
tomorrow

tempts farmers  
to forgive  
and dream again

