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## Sleeping Out at the Farm

Dixie Partridge

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August nights in Wyoming raise a cold dew.  
We return for clarity: visible heavens  
mapped with stars,  
thick slush of the milky way  
across Salt River Range.

We lie before moonrise  
under grandmother-quilts, our bodies curved  
over feather ticks from the attic.  
Through fences, my father's last few Angus—  
shipped to market—seem still to move,  
invisible and real.

Birthplace, pasture, creek bed,  
hills . . . we float with nebulae  
as the east grows pale,  
cirrus moving in with a wafer moon.  
We dissolve toward sleep  
with high-altitude cloud,  
our lives a faint cluster of plenty.

—Dixie Partridge