

Lizards and Livestock

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When I was 12

@ 4 Corners

I laid down on the marker

to be in 4 states at once

and my mom took a picture

on a disposable camera

that was never developed

when I was in high school

we went back again—

through the 4 corners,

but we didn't stop at the monument

because my dad read in the newspaper

“GPS Shows 4 Corners is 150ft Off the Mark”

so we drove on through Shiprock to Durango

Now, back again @ 26

Where ravens take center-pivot irrigation showers

Do I have to pee? Or am I just nervous?

And restless—Where the radio day

starts with Tina Turner, Queen, Fleetwood Mac

consecutively @5:17am—

and the local 4 corners public radio

is a chronatonic country music station spinning the classics

Confluence

that I've never heard, but immediately love
then they just slip away
the DJ never mentions the title or artist
and I haven't had service to look them up
and I wouldn't have it any other way
driving down these empty high desert dirt roads
lined with ranches and red dirt hay fields
Are these juniper bushes?
Or some other scrub brush?
Farm Fresh Eggs
Milk
Hay
Pass with care
Do not pass
Caution Congestion Ahead
Do not pass
Pass with care
Road Work Ahead
Pass with care
layered grease, sand, & stone &

Sightline

I'm missing Mac n Cheese Fest in Farmington
& the radio won't shut up about it
or "exceptional customer service"
& "great financing deals"
at all the car dealerships in Cortez
"Bison meat for sellin': Grand Island Bison"
just outside Del Norte

Where the “Rio Grande River” signs
have “River” painted over with green
goats and geckos
horses and horseflies
cattle and cattle guards
dot this landscape
less sparse than the shade
but just barely—
I have this unintentional habit
of driving through cities
shortly after a mass shooting
like:
Uvalde
Las Vegas
Farmington
Highland Park
Colorado Springs
even Boulder,
where I live now.
It’s like, I don’t even notice:
there’s nothing in the air
or a looming dark cloud,
it’s always the yard signs
that remind me—
like political placards
memorializing those lost
with ribbons and flowers
but the laws haven’t changed

Confluence

guns are as available as ever—
and we don't take care
of each other
or ourselves
and I just keep driving