

1994

# Resurrection Update

James Galvin

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## Six Poems · James Galvin

### AGRICULTURE

*for Richard Borgmann*

Tonight the rain can't stand up straight, but once,  
Watching over my shoulder, the ten wheeling suns  
Of the double siderake rolling new mown hay  
Over and over and over and over  
Into the windrow like a thick green rope,  
I was nothing  
But a window sailing through the night,  
And once when twenty horses wild together  
All winter, galloped towards me down the road  
With Harrison whooping behind them and  
The little stock dog barking at their heels,  
And me there to turn them into the corral  
From the middle of the road, their eighty  
Hooves a roll of thunder in the earth,  
Me with a stupid piece of rope in my hand,  
I was nothing  
But a window sailing through the night.

### RESURRECTION UPDATE

And then it happened.  
Amidst cosmic busting and booming  
Gravity snapped,  
That galactic rack and pinion.

Trees took off like rockets.  
Cemeteries exploded.  
The living and the dead  
Flew straight up together.

Only up was gone. Up was away.  
Earth still spun  
As it stalled and drifted darkward,  
Sublime,

An aspirin in a glass of water.

## TWO HORSES AND A DOG

Without external reference,  
The world presents itself  
In perfect clarity.

Wherewithall, arrested moments,  
The throes of demystification,  
Morality as nothing more  
Than humility and honesty, a salty measure.

Then it was a cold snap,  
Weather turned lethal so it was easier  
To feel affinity  
With lodgepole stands, rifted aspens,  
And grim, tenacious sage.

History accelerates till it misses the turns.  
Wars are shorter now  
Just to fit into it.

One day you know you are no longer young  
Because you've stopped loving your own desperation.  
You change *life* to *loneliness* in your mind  
And, you know, you need to change it back.

Statistics show that  
One in every five  
Women  
Is essential to my survival.