

1985

# Again

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## Recommended Citation

Dodd, Wayne. "Again." *The Iowa Review* 15.1 (1985): 81-82. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.3181>

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AGAIN

Morning has arrived  
like a question,  
birdcalls all querulous  
and rising,  
trucks  
on the highway to the south of us  
searching  
through the gears  
toward a place of indecision,  
True/False, True/False . . .  
True faults  
of the mind,  
in time: forgetting  
and remembering.

Kansas.

Early morning.  
The streets yellow dust  
in the sunlight,  
backyards stretching themselves  
full length  
between the fences.  
And again my friend and I  
rise up from sleep  
on the hard bed  
of a wheat truck,  
certain  
and supple  
in the day's low promise:  
the dry smell of grass

and chaff  
    along the ditches,  
        the blue shirt of sky  
hung out on the line to fade  
    toward white,  
        flies humming dark  
in the cab doze of afternoon,  
    10,900 mornings  
        ago.  
And the people I saw there,  
    eating eggs,  
        stepping down  
from a porch,  
    lifting a small piece of cloth  
        to the cheek –  
do they still,  
    rain time or sun time,  
        wonder  
under the prairie dirt,  
    whether they too will push,  
        some spring,  
their dark way back  
    to the surface,  
        eyes  
viridescent in the changed  
    light, wind  
        filling their mouths again  
with each other's name?  
    Again  
        morning has arrived  
like a question,  
    a wooly worm striped  
        black  
and amber, back  
    with its secret knowledge  
        from the other side.