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## Border

Ruth Stone

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Border  
Ruth Stone

Driving through Indiana,  
creeks wriggle along the highway,  
incidental,  
like, "Oh yes,  
someone used to wade there."  
A knot of deformed trees,  
almost too old fashioned,  
remnants of a farm, discontinued merchandise.  
But it's mostly lost streams,  
weed-trees and a loneliness that hints  
of automatic two car garage doors and zoyossa grass;  
small, well kept lawns and sudden streets,  
and identical houses around a factory  
that sprawls the way small colleges used to spread  
themselves out:  
lawns, flowerbeds, groundsman with mowing machines.  
The quiet authority of culture.

"Border" originally appeared in *In the Dark*, printed by Copper Canyon Press. Republished by permission of Ruth Stone.