

# 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