

A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA
WESTVIEW



Volume 22
Issue 1 Fall/Winter

Article 22

11-15-2002

The First Star of Fall

Ryan G. Van Cleave

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Van Cleave, Ryan G. (2002) "The First Star of Fall," *Westview*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 1 , Article 22.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol22/iss1/22>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

 SWOSUTM

The First Star of Fall

by Ryan G. Van Cleave

The black-soaked sky is huge with the voice
of cormorants and yellow-breasted swallows.

Leaves drained of all color
litter the ground like so many unwrapped cigars.

The resinous scent of oak and spruce is here tonight,
nearly lost in the heavy purple breath of lilacs.

And high above the bulky shadows of chestnuts—
there, above the tallest tier of pine—

a guttering white dwarf, it is self-control,
the light of a heart exhausting itself.

On the brink of extinction,
its splintering shine casts a spell,
asking us to please, please last.



Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

