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Wild Plums

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Wild Plums

By Aaron A. Baker

Mom in cowboy boots
picks sand plums
growing wild
in a roadside thicket
on South Canadian River
While Coke and bread trucks
blast over the road
making early morning deliveries
in nearby village of Camargo
Sweating under
a relentless July sun
Wearing old plantation straw hat
Reaching into the spiked branches
For the choicest red fruit
deep inside
the green bushes
Keeping a lookout for rattlesnakes
In the tall grass
And remarking
what a find we've made
Grabbing wild plums by the handful
Emptying one container after another
Fruit harvest on the desert
of Western Oklahoma
Jelly-time this winter
When the north wind howls
like a mad coyote

