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## Dark Sky, White Sands, New Mexico, 1956

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WINNER

DARK SKY, WHITE SANDS, NEW MEXICO, 1956  
Amanda Auchter

*after Ernst Haas*

The desert peels back to the black sky  
and the only horizon is sand.  
There is a city under a hood of ash,  
where the earth is a loom of dusk.  
Evening, a brush with memory.  
Pray to the gray river-bed for its lack  
of river. Kneel in this white-swept  
wasteland, press your cheek to the dirt.  
Never ask for an ocean. Believe  
in this sunless city, this pastoral grit.  
Jog the stars, the rising dunes.