

# Forces

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Volume 2019

Article 119

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5-1-2020

## Dead End, Texas

M.J. Scott

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### Recommended Citation

Scott, M.J. (2020) "Dead End, Texas," *Forces*: Vol. 2019 , Article 119.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol2019/iss1/119>

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## Dead End, Texas

M.J. Scott

out where the sand inhales  
 paling bones from the boiling surface  
 kissing the flats of scorpions' feet  
 and caressing their empty stomachs

where unbearable torridity  
 are just handsome words in abusive affairs  
 tempting the stewed gazers  
 to dream of being anywhere that is elsewhere

where the land takes shade  
 chasing the waking snakes from bathe  
 and grim masses in the sky bring  
 gnarling howls that warn their prey

where barbed wires cloaked in rust  
 slither across dying prairies parched in dust  
 and what once bore the colors of a pretty gown  
 is now just hollow thorns within rolling brush

where the night sky shyly bats its eyes  
 to the weary whistlers of a long traveled tale  
 who lie on scorched earth under blankets of dirt  
 in graves where violent stars once fell

#2 Christopher Zhou