

# Forces

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Volume 2021

Article 48

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3-15-2021

## Shift Over

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### Recommended Citation

St. John, Debra (2021) "Shift Over," *Forces*: Vol. 2021 , Article 48.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol2021/iss1/48>

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**Shift Over** • Debra St. John

## Anthill Dance

Eric Dula

The colony moves in dance  
A jig, a waltz, a ballet,  
Not known by any ant  
But perfect as a whole

First like rain, then like snow  
They search then settle  
Dancing all along the way  
Burrows go deep, tall, and wide

The work is fast, the work is fatal  
But never lonely, never boring  
In perfect unison they step the dance  
As sweat goes down chitin backs

They attend picnics uninvited  
To feed their hungry larvae  
New halls dug this way and that  
To house the sleepy ants

Even as the sun completes its own dance  
The dance continues as it yawns  
Rest is just the slowest tempo  
But slips by fastest all the same

Tomorrow it will go once more  
They will kiss their wives goodbye  
Off to step the same motions again  
Each task a step in the great dance