

A Horse That Shits Fast

Derek Sheffield



don't shit for long,
he said every time
we gathered to yank
and dump a living
from weeds and clippings.

Wavy air spun with clicks
and buzzes and everywhere
our gloves dug, dirt
sipped our sweat.
But it was the steed

of his favorite notion
that let us begin
each shift with a break,
a chance to unscrew
our lids for one more cup.

How many times
did we hear it, tools
lying in a heap, first light
pouring over us? The answer
always never enough.

