

Excerpt from “Black Marble, Blue Dress”

“Doesn’t seem to be too many people out today, I guess the hot weather’s keeping them away. Brownie got out the other day. I swear that dog keeps lookin’ for you. I catch him every time waitin’. He waits there on the corner of 9th and Harrison like you were just coming down the street. I sat there with him the other day. Yep, we must have sat there a good hour just watching the road, waitin’. I’m not sure for what. I almost had to drag him home after that. He’s a stubborn one. But I know how he feels. Sometimes I think I see you too. You’re in that blue dress. You know the one you wore the first time I saw you. It’s as clear as day sometimes. I think Old Brownie sees you too, because he starts a barkin’ and a barkin’, and we just stand there...the two of us, gazing ahead like a couple of old fools.”

Howard places his brown, black banded fedora hat back on his head and turns over onto his hands and knees, slowly backing his hands up, one by one, gently rising, using the slant of the hill as leverage.
