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Rainfall

Mardi May

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Rainfall *by Mardi May*

A farmer's happiness
is measured in millimeters;

the wisp of a smile at
the first dimpling of dust;

the thought of dry seed
thirsting below the surface.

He tilts a sweat-stained hat,
implores the reluctant sky;

intercedes for a crop
sowed yearly with hope;

grins at the wet-dark earth;
breath held as shoots spear

through the softening soil;
laughs long and loud at

the weatherman's words
and the weeks of watering sky.

Mardi May is a Perth writer and member of the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre in Greenmount. She writes short fiction and social history, but loves the immediacy of poetry and the music of its language. Her much awarded work has been widely published and performed. Much of her life has been lived in the shadow of a rainwater tank, and she is married to a farmer who watches the sky.