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# LAWN DEER

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## Dave Malone

Across the street, the neighbors  
have installed a pair of does.  
A yard sale bargain from the next block,  
the slight deer are towheaded  
from a decade of blazing sun,  
and one leans crooked near the other.  
I can't tell if it's the lay of the land  
or ten years of neglect on Oak Street  
that has left her hobbled, her black snout  
angling away from her friend's shoulder  
as if she's commenting about the shady weather  
or perhaps not saying anything, thinking instead  
about a lifetime not in her friend's shadow  
and silent because she got her wish.

## Author Biography

Dave Malone spent his early childhood in Riley, Kansas, and later graduated from Olathe North High School. He holds degrees from Ottawa University and Indiana State University. His most recent poetry collection is *Bypass* (Aldrich Press, 2023). His work has been featured on NPR and appeared in *Midwest Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, and *Red Rock Review*. Dave currently lives in West Plains, Missouri. You can find him online at <https://www.davemalone.net> or reach him at [davemaloneauthor@gmail.com](mailto:davemaloneauthor@gmail.com).