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## Border Town

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Jennifer Soule

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## Border Town

Mobridge—like its name—two parts:  
Missouri River and the bridge  
that straddles two countries—  
Indian and White—cut off from the world  
and each other by the Mighty Mo.

On the west side—Standing Rock Reservation:  
Sitting Bull's fenced grave,  
and a monument to Sakakawea  
where wind and horses play.

On the east, deserted  
shutters-banging-in-the-wind parochial  
Central Indian Bible College overlooks  
a riverbank and cottonwoods.  
A second rate motel has million dollar  
views of water and sunset on the Plains.

Residents cross back and forth  
to gambling at the casino  
on reservation dirt-roads or  
shopping and Burger King in town.

City hall—the old high school—  
houses fading murals by Oscar Howe, painted  
during the Depression—public works for artists—  
a treasure in a town where recently

a young Lakota man was found  
stuffed dead in a trash can. Reconciliation groups  
now meet to bring the two sides together—  
with more in common than they will admit:

poverty, joblessness, isolation.  
All who can desert  
this border place  
at the edge of the earth.