

The background is a solid, warm red color. On the left side, there are two white dice. The top die is oriented with the one, two, and three faces visible. The bottom die is oriented with the four, five, and six faces visible. Scattered across the right side of the page are several small, dark red circular dots, some of which are slightly larger and more prominent than others, resembling the 'lost dots' mentioned in the footer.

## Vegas Baby

I must have been about six,  
crammed into a U-Haul  
with the great wooden furniture,  
when I was driven away.  
From the spin of gambling machines,  
from dancers and lights.  
from the click click click of certain victory  
and cop shoes on marble courthouse floors.

The truck would hit each hole,  
each cut in the road, shaking me.  
Jostled with the boxes  
and the small glass turtles  
and the too-big TV.  
Down, down, down sinking  
into the hot air of the South.  
Magnolia tendrils and snaking kudzu  
wrapping my tiny lungs,  
too accustomed to dry air  
to draw breath in the swamp.

I am bitter.  
Like the smell from stagnant puddles.  
Like your new money.  
Like the guns around the house.  
Like those rank motels we stopped in.  
Like the cottonmouth I am.

Trinity Scalia