

Nothing to Hold On To

by [Sarah Gordon](#) in the [February 2024](#) issue

When the lasso of language misses its mark,
falls limp in the dust, the horse gets away,
gallops triumphantly out of sight,
and there's nothing to connect the horse
to you, you to the horse,
nothing to hold on to

You see photos of those boys in India
who ride the tops of boxcars,
their bare feet pressing the steel,
an arm reflexively clutching the air
to steady the ballast that is the body

or that first ship way back when,
boldly sloshing away from the shore,
tethered only to the unfathomable deep