

Dionne Custer Edwards

Elegant Spot

We come from farmers.
My oldest son seemed surprised

by that. I mean

city life can remove us from the dirt—
rub away the look, shape, sound of a stone.

When we stood in the middle of a field
in Sparta it was different from Cleveland.

The sky divided into its deepest pitch,
a grime we've grown accustomed to seeing.

City life can remove us from windows.
Starlight has a difficult and violent birth.

How can you notice the sky
in the shadow sliver of buildings?

How easily we plant ourselves in the ground.
By that, I mean

split ourselves into fragments and bangles,
a chocolate truffle seeping from the inside,

an hour of sobbing gold.

Dionne Custer Edwards, writer and art educator at The Wexner Center for the Arts, created Pages, a writing program for high school students, and co-edits a student anthology published by the Wex. She has published in 3Elements Review, Gravel, Grist, Tahoma Literary Review, The Seventh Wave, and others.