



From Radio Lab

Llyn Clague

The Game

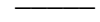
In the closed end of the bowl,
backed up against his own goal—
in their many tens of thousands
his opponent's manic hordes

bent, with every corpuscle
of their red vocal chords,
on tilting the battlefield
to favor their gridiron idols,

exuberant, antic, ecstatic,
a forest of fingers declaiming
"Number one! . . . one! . . . one!"
scream, shriek and bellow—

the quarterback, into a wall of
air, the uphill sun square
in his flat, cold eyes,
with every diaphragm muscle

emits his defiant cry.



Llyn Clague's work has appeared in *Ibbetson Street*, *Main Street Rag*, *Wisconsin Review*, *California Quarterly* and elsewhere. His seventh book, *Hard-Edged and Childlike*, appeared in 2014.