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# The Boy Who Wouldn't Hoe Corn

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## The Boy Who Wouldn't Hoe Corn\*

Harvest-haired and handling  
sun disks tasting of the earth, sweet

cornmeal pouring from my hands,  
sheaf and seed.

Wild,  
wormy, deep

and delicate under cover.  
Root-smart

minerals transforming silken  
headdress, life-sustaining.

Sower of resentment, if you can't  
manage corn, you can't have me.

\* This poem is a response to "The Boy Who Wouldn't Hoe Corn,"  
recorded by Alison Kraus and Union Station on *New Favorite*  
(Rounder Records, 2001).