

Frank C Mars creates his first chocolate bar, Minnesota, 1888

Tornado season. She folds his polio-pallid fingers
around the dripping spoon,

presses her boned bodice
like a brace against the back of her last son.

Long-travelled winds or war cries
howl in. *This is no land*

for a weak child. A caramel star licks
the pane. Frank stirs liquid cocoa, melting lard

into a chipped bowl. *Milky Way, Snickers,*
Mar-o-Bar he incants, envisions a far-off fortune.

A spaceman eating tiny chocolate pieces branded with 'M's
balances on the low prairie moon.

Note: The Mars company was founded by Frank C Mars in 1920.

100 years after Frank was born, the Mars product M&Ms became the first chocolate in outer space.