

5 ways to dream a country

1. Remember the canary you had as a child and that one day it is gone. You walk into the curtained room, your bare feet ticking on bare floorboards and here is the cage, its black bars surrounding emptiness. Only one element has left but the cage is changed beyond the small loss. The small is everything it was.
2. Troops assemble at the front. Again and again assembling, the shamble of their trucks on the road, the shreds of dust approaching the house.
3. Accept the prison of your body. Watch as the bullet infiltrates your skin. Watch the blood leave your veins.
4. A suitcase at the side of the road, burst open, contents spilling into the burnt crop of the adjacent field: a trampled dress, a flesh-pink comb, yellow beads spattered amongst blackened stubble.
5. When the time comes, lift your hands to the sky, golden coin behind the black bars of your fingers. Feel its warm flutter. Try to be remembering the song.