

## Symptoms of escape fever include

by Julia McConnell

A dazzle sprouting from your chest  
waltzing weeping vomiting  
second-guess shoelaces winding around your larynx  
microscopic bees zipping in your veins  
queenly tours of red dirt wash

monarchs composing abdication speeches  
constructing tinfoil hats to deflect guilt  
empathy for meteors approaching black holes  
permanent alteration while crossing event horizon

mudstone crumbling from your vision  
trying out prodigal around the homeplace  
tug of war between claustrophobic and agoraphobic  
while traversing the plains by automobile

your home state a half feral cat  
mewing at the back step  
close the door  
turn up the radio