

Hand-sewn

Ty Dunn

my grandmother sewed
 the quilt i wrap around
my body. cut each shape
 with dull scissors,
held pins between her lips
 as she put them together
and aligned them with
 a ruler. threaded the
eye with steady hands.
 pricked her finger,
kept sewing as she hum-
 med gospels, and rocks
in that amish pressback
 dining chair. she tells
stories of her mother
 that sewed birds of
paradise, boats, and
 flower wreaths to
her daughters who
 will never need to
stitch warnings within
 colored cloth.