

## Pleasant Land

*the pheasant could be a symbol of nostalgia*

When I began to commute like this

I thought of nothing  
but England's green belt, the carpet at my cousin's nursery,

a mobile of laminated words.  
Green poster framing 'Democracy', 'Individual Liberty'.

The turf at five-a-side, this

pleasant land.

Once, we strayed  
onto a farmer's land  
and he answered  
with a rifle pointed to the sky.

For so long after, my voice  
watched a fighter jet from the hedgerows,  
waiting as prey does.

For so long, the wild running pheasants  
of Fife were a puzzle to me.

Heems raps *She don't like you, she says you was a peasant, she said  
I'm classy like a ring-necked pheasant.*

A white girl from Tottenham,  
two failed dates  
between us  
on the bus, talks  
about

Jerusalem.

The foam in the Tay gathers  
like the outline of a net.  
I think of its mesh ringing a  
pheasant's neck

## Parthenon Marbles

And the experts the Parthenon	unquestioned scrubbing of sculptures leads me here.
Here, under a poster is where someone	of the Parthenon temple lays with me in the grass.
The grass is hot. Lays I learn Parthenon relates	down under my calves. to virgin maiden, goddess.
You learn to clean into I suppose.	white goddessness No yellow torso.
In those draped lines, suspended uprooting	supposed head, torsos, of the body, so quiet.
Headless, therefore quiet. I discuss terracotta	Suspended in century. with the children.
The children discuss I am thinking of	Viking longships with me. Congolese amputations.
Does his amputated hand of the impression	have you think, therefore, he wished to give you.
How often the impression new names, 'Elgin',	by white eyes give us new reckonings.