

## The Kramatorsk Train Station

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A ragged-looking stuffed horse toy now lies  
beside the road, abandoned to the heaps  
of rubble. Fur once ochre-brown is stained  
a gorish wine along the legs and snout,  
and shards of wood are stuck within its mane  
and tail. The station, cold and empty, lives  
in silence, one that clutches grief against  
its chest, just like a child's comfort toy.

The horse becomes my travel confidant  
across the country towards Poland. When,  
at last, the journey is complete, I take  
the horse to soap and water, squeezing tight  
so crimson stains race down the drain until  
the fur is ochre-colored once again.