

**PUERTO ESCONDIDO**

*Península de Paraguaná, Falcón, Venezuela*

I remember home with the car speeding off in the night,  
my mother held to the gun. This is how life will continue

to happen: the mall held up, the cinema doors slam, four men  
dressed as policemen come in with guns, the first-floor bank

floods with bullets. When it ends, people will go about their day:  
another day, another shooting. At a certain party someone

will unabashedly defend communism, argue to me the benefits  
of “what shouldn’t be called a dictatorship” while they brush off

their Polo and sip their Bombay Gin cocktail. I like to think  
that when I find something beautiful, I will no longer be alone.

But what I found is what I’ll never return to—far enough  
to reach the lighthouse at the north, the family of fishermen,

the rusting ship tipping out of the sea. I had once found everything.