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## A File

Star Angelina Murray  
*University of Washington*

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## A File

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Star Angelina Murray, poet

There are days when things turn single file.  
March into a room after paying five coyotes.  
No more relatives, wife, or kids.  
Here I stand with all of you in a country  
deskless holding cell,  
explain my life succinct  
into foreign languages  
convince you that my body fits into five boxes.  
My potential for death  
threat to my family  
affiliation  
membership  
nationality  
When my wife last waved goodbye  
I imagined my country did not birth a state.  
Earth makes my brown body its image  
into a bird  
granules suspended in air  
sand stoned cliffs  
bent wheat  
forests of Douglas Firs  
Awakened, I cross the blue ocean  
into new borders  
convince you I am not inadmissible  
all I am is a file<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In the summers of 2010 and 2011, I spent time reviewing detainees' I-589 forms at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. My experience inspired the writing of this poem.