PIANYU

Sample · five pages

The House Before

a life story · five sample pages



ONE

The winter I was born

The corridor of the county hospital was long and lit white. My mother says she was in labour for two days; my father smoked a whole pack outside. Nobody knew then that I would leave that town.



That winter

TWO

The first move

The furniture went into one truck, pots tied together with rope. It rained the day we moved. My mother carried the enamel basin in her arms and would not let anyone else touch it.



The year we moved

THREE

The room without a window

I lived in that room for four years. There was always a lamp on the desk. The wall was white and nothing hung on it, because we did not know how long we would stay.



That room

FOUR

Going back

I went back last year. The building is still there. The shop downstairs is a parcel depot now. I stood at the entrance for a long time and did not go up.



The day I went back

This is where the book ends.
You tell the story. We set it.

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