August 2014

Wake Up

Adrian Rice

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/iss

Part of the Celtic Studies Commons, and the Literature in English, British Isles Commons

Recommended Citation

Rice, Adrian (2014) "Wake Up," Irish Studies South: Iss. 1, Article 24.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/iss/vol1/iss1/24

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Irish Studies South by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.
Wake Up

in memory of Seamus Heaney

Adrian Rice

A Carolina cardinal charging the study window
Woke me up to the Dundas winter
When a cat cried all night outside the big bay window

In the snow, black heart on cold white slab,
Coffin-lid thick. And I woke next morning
To the loss of the Russian Bard,

Disappearing just before the century closed.
And then today, in Hickory, seventeen years on,
Birds banged against the bedroom window

All morning long, while I lay with my boy
In the bed, resting our late night heads.
And I woke to the loss of the Irish Bard,

And knew well what the birds had been beating out:

Wake up!
Wake up!
Wake up!

The Poet’s dead!

from The Clock Flower (Press 53, 2013)