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Disassembled in Place

A selection from *Fragments / Brotes*

Queens, New York

Spring

Primavera

2020



March 10. Home.
36 *cases*.

Silence.

Mamá, do you believe in god? 329 cases.

Homeschool. Schedule. An hour. Another.

Out of focus.

Distances.

Morning light.

Borders closed.

Loss | Play

Humility. Dispersion. Rerouting. Unfocused.
Uncertain. Confused. Community. Connection.
Boundless. Collecting. Midwifery. Unorganized.
Resilience. Overwhelmed. Solidarity. Processing.
No sense of time. Insecurity. Love. Frustration.
Rebooting. Revelations. Reorientation. Ruptures.

(Words from our first class online)

You are the last adult I hugged, 12 days ago.

33,768 cases.



Atisbar (Glimpse)

How long will it take to trust, to touch?

Normality.

Another month, two, next Fall, next year.

Tomorrow.

Mamá, ¿cuántos casos hay? ¿Y si le atino?

Un duelo largo y desconocido.

38,087 cases

Devastación | Renovación

Acogerse

Duelo | Consuelo

Vamos a poder abrazarnos de nuevo.

Un tiempo sin tiempo.

C's father died.
They hadn't spoken.
No visitors.

Stretch
Ache
Fragility

Sirens | Birds
72,181 cases

R died. Don't tell the kids yet.
She was so generous, mamá.
She loved magnets.

B had it. C had it.
It.



The epicenter of the epicenter.
Corona, Queens

Exhaustion | Agotamiento

Dream of my grandfather. A hug. Inhale.
“I hear everything in that breath”, he said.

Possible | Impossible

Cancel rent. Freeze debt.
Suspend mortgages.
Release detainees. End deportations.
Free healthcare. Relief for migrants.
Distribute meals.

Undocumented and essential.
Clap.

Furloughed.

My brother, the doctor:
“I dreamt that I was going to die.
I just wanted to let you know.”

¿Cuántos hay hoy mamá? Tú dime.

Hyperawareness | Sleeplessness



E's mother tested positive.
Her brother has symptoms.
Sh relapsed.
A's brother died on the ventilator.
S's uncle is out of intensive care.

I's roommate is sick.
The ambulance wouldn't take her.
Onions and honey to breathe.
Onions on your chest.
I has it too.

N's mother was in the hospital 10 days.
No ambulances to take her.

G's wife had it.

How long does it live inside of you?

Break the lease.
Unfolded boxes.

Turn around.
Blood gushing from her shin.
Just standing there.
Shopping bags on the ground.

It was a dog.

Call the ambulance.
Don't take the facemask off.
Don't touch.
What? What?
Skin dangling. Sweatpants over the knee.
She walks so calmly. Asks what should I do.

Help. Keep the 6 feet.
Stay by the orange cone.
Keep the mask on.
Slow choreographies.
Layers of tissue. Pulsing.

Help is coming. Wait.
Sit on the bench. But we're not supposed to.
Wrap a bandage.
Where's the dog?

There's the police.
No, it's school safety. What school?
Ambulance coming. Firetruck.

I can't go to the hospital.
You have to. It's to the bone.

The white bandage over the red stained sock.
The grey long hair tangled
with the mask straps, dangling.

Rush back. Took too long.
Elbow open the door.
Shoes, jacket, keys, bags out.
Don't touch.
Disinfect everything.
20 seconds.

The order of things.

Hands shake.



Hoy se murió un paciente en la calle.
No había camas en el hospital.

April 20
New York City
134,446 cases | 9,708 deaths

México
8,772 casos | 712 defunciones

Surfaces
What does it mean
to contain multitudes, mamá?
Contradictions

Lost taste, smell
Still symptomatic
It's been four weeks
Sign up for a test
Donate plasma

Discuss life support options
Take care of your sister
It's been one day without the ventilator

Define toll

Breaking points.
Within.

The bare pain of a 9-year-old.
Sobs.
Intangible.

I haven't called.
I just can't.
Other family members have died.
It's been hard.
Hope you're well.

C

How we become
part of
each other

158,268 cases / 11,648 deaths



Fog
In betweenness
Sometimes lifts

Tránsitos

A curve shifting

slow
down

ready or not

a sense of
direction

or balance

root

Mamá, mamá, mamá, ven rápido.
Emergencia.
No te va a gustar.
Hay pájaros bebés muertos.

Three, four, more.
Where?

Translucent
contours of life
inert

Carry each dead bird too soon
with two thin branches
to the ground
over there
cover them with leaves

Structures | Nests

disassembled
in place



I want to tell you about home.
All this unsaid
It's been so long.
Now it bursts.

You remind me how it started
what was lost.

V collapsed:
“I forgot I was sick”

¿Estás llorando, mamá?
¿Por qué?
Dime.

Bueno, si quieres me puedes decir después.

Positive
Antibody

D's friend died
Out of reach

Mamá, trivia:
What organ works with your heart
to give oxygen to your body?

The lungs.

too loud, too fast, too soon
too much, too close, too long
too slow, too quiet, too far

unknown beats
pendulum swings

questions unasked
traces elsewhere

huecos | hollows
anhelos

Can't take a deep breath.

thick
tense
air

plywood over windows
steel railings
unfold
default

199,392 cases / 20,422 deaths
May 20