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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