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NARVEST

## INTERNATIONAL

PRESEMTS :.

## ELW BEGINWINES: VACC-ZINE



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| "The Song of Lucifer" | Dwight lan Martinez |
| "Explosive" | Robert Salcido |
| Credits | The Harvest Team |

In the fluorescent flare of flicking lights, Cornered in ber nook, captive by the taste Of the Anticipation of woorlds laced With those beroic knights and evil sprites, Of far-off places suffused with bright nights, Her body grows still, but ber mind unplaced. Quietly inside ber: Sbe feels Displaced, Tangibly stuck, but inside she delights.

Barely aware, she cradles that old book For the spine grows old baving been abused More than a bundred times by ber alone.
Because of that there book, in that small nook, Sbe's found love, so let ber sit there amused. For ber, I woill fall to eartb like a stone.


## THEIR EVERYTHING RACHEL SARMIENTO

In a pocket of space, in a pocket of time,
They left the rest of the world behind.
Alone in the moment, it was clear to see,
Together they were meant to be.

For she was his moon, and she was his sun,
And as for the stars, she was his one.
To her what he was was her universe,
He was her world, he was her earth.

There they stood as time stood still,
A moment frozen in time until
They had io part and to go their own ways,
Still promising to be together someday.

Photo: Renée I. Paladini
But someday came slow: it was never clear when
Time and space would bring them together again.

## THE OLD TOWN (FOR TEMECULA)

This old town isn't old, but rather new, It's a shadow of a place I once knew. Once a place of family fun, Now an alcohol-fueled one.

Old wood buildings
With a story in every nail, Now concrete blocks With no significant story to tell. This old town.

## Saul Muro




## French Bulldog

Having one is not greater than two
Good things have a funny way
Making light seen anew
Don't listen to what they say

Missed friends from another life Excruciating character is always hard Molded sculptures igniting strife

Those who can pull our card

Revolving images of the grand Quivering reflections inside out Chiseled shoulders upon his stand The summoning of the shout

Mistaken foldings along the seam Juxtaposed on the same team

## William Wilson

# Belonging <br> Aimee Perez 



When I was not a thought in someone's mind
did that someone know just what it meant
Perhaps they join for pleasure they might find Theyjoin dis-join mylot alreadysent
$I$ arrived all wet and softly crying
They introduce me to this world forever stretching
Their four hands would pass me still denying
Their two mouths never usher out a blessing

I'm okay now though hope and trust did break
They sent me out to walk cold roads for miles
Sure lovingly and all for learning's sake
I would rise and fall with thorns for deeper smiles

Now I know where fire burns and I will never go
Their four hands will not reap from me what they did sow
yet ire vine once young begins to grow old yet instead of yielding joy grapes in a tub squishing wishing for their lives to Ge separate
but grouped together nonetheless form changes as seasons become nameless now bottled and corked trapped and stopped always together never apart

La belleza en el lago
En uno de mis parques favoritos
Hay un lago lleno de belleza.
Cuando era niña, no había mucho belleza.
Solo podía ver peces y algunos veces los tortugas.
A veces si veía pajaros y personas navegando en sus pequeños botes
Pero el lago no era tan bello ni tampoco el parque.
Años después, hicieron cambios al parque para ayudarlo.
Karla Amaya
Cuando regrese al parque como adulta,
Pude ver tanta belleza.
(

Bhlago estaba limpio con muchospeces, tortugas y pajaros Y desde entonces, el parque y el lago siguen ied do hemoson- 5
Espero que el'lago y el parque siemprée sigan siendo hermosos.

Porque uno de las cosas mas bellas en el mundo Es la belleza en el lago.

The Beauty in the Lake In one of my favorite parks There is a lake, full of beauty. When was a little gill, there wasn't much beauty.

Icould only see fish and sometimes turtles Sometimes I saw birds and people saling in their little boats But the lake was not that beaut fuf, not even the park.

Years later, changes were made ro help the park. When I returned to the park as an adult, I could see so much beaty: The lake was clean with so many Pish, turites, and birds cople looking around, walking, taking photos, doing the typical park things.

And since then, the park and lake rem ains beautiful,
Thope the lake and park will al ways be beautiful. Because one of the most beautiful things in the world ehor he ce thonat. Is the beauty of the lake.

Silk webs of light intermingle with ends of lucid dreams
Body filled with weight from yesterday's mistakes
But toes uncurl to take root

Promises whisper from scented blades and blooms Transported to shady spots beneath tangerine trees Memories unspoken stir gently

I wonder if it is an even exchange since
Dew drops refract due thoughts

Holding my breath won't be enough But I may be able to recreate this feeling

Tomorrow

But skies might be burning ivory No definition in clouded atmospheres Ode to California mornings and its kisses and death sentences

I thank my shadow on Ramona St.,
At Five in the Afternoon- the sun flame burning
Out, under those palm trees over, there. The temporary solid figure that, follows to the East of Me.

The wind pushes my long, auburn hair,
The shadow's hair
foliows.
eceptive are these shadows, I tell you.
I forget the reality that awaits as I circle back up Ramona, St.

Solid menaces you are. I welcome the mirror, the most Deceitful of all. Deceptive and Deceitful,
how can I face my reflection without the-
Oh, how I wish it were $4: 59$ in the Afternoon.
Without the mental capability to face my burning insecurities.
Women are told to stow away
under the rug? under your, stomach, flap? Their PostPartum Insecurities.
The shadow tells me I am of solid color. No tiger-stripes or-
C-Section scar that makes you wish,
Five in the afternoon was always around.
That you would have been told gravity goes against your organs,
As you frailly, slowly, Intentionally hold Yourself upright.
I thank my shadow on Ramona Street. For,
the solid following silhouette reminds me of the power of a WoMen's body.
I don't forget you mirror, deceitful thing you are,
I welcome you too again, thank you, for making me look forward to
The suns flames, burning away, as my shadow follows
East.

## Hello

Let's pretend to be lovers At this chanced meeting As though with no meaning as If I shouldn't have said this

Down to where the roads circle And young minds form triangles To know where they don't meet In provisional notions that expire in the Sun

Then disarm compatriots in the streets To laugh off their confounded glare While godspeeding to the beach For sand to bind to our wrinkles

To then trace sacred images there, Seeing the voided space create the form, For the ephemeral lines to swallow Into the capricious riptide

Idling until night's impending fall Washing the day's joy tepid To turn to each other And see a kiss gleam in the eyes

To have finally broken the spell With that farewell rite
To find, once again, our melancholic stasis And the thought of never seeing each other

## The Wait

I should be proud I am getting the green
But I'm treating my body like it's a machine Most days I don't feel like a human being It's always work and little sleep
And if I do I feel like something will come creep
Even when I'm not there I can't escape it
Coming home throwing tantrums and hissy fits Remember this will only be for a short time Compose myself and not lose my mind In the end the reward will be great Regardless of the things I may now hate Remember I am in control of my own fate And this will all be worth the wait

Anonymous


The man with no choice, With all his bearing,
Grabs the whole earth underneath him.
With a grip-tie like that of the Gordian Knot,
Lifts the earth, Smites the God in heaven, Woefully blinded by fate, Begrudged of his sense and star, Heaves the earth and rocks it back down.
But not without declaiming power from God's creation, And therefore taking something from Him.
Thus, with energy and soul atoned for, He and the Earth forsook - die not for faith but still the unknown
Yet both knowing that good death alone

Mac Fernandez
Photo by:
Jessica T. Magaña

## Meather

IN MY MIND, I DWELL IN PASTURES, EXPANSES OF LAND AND SKY AND HEATHER. I HEAR THE RUMBLING STORM ON THE HORIZON, THE WIND WHIPPING THROUGH MY HAIR, AND I AM SUMMONED BY
THE WHISPERS OF THE BOUGHS OF TREES.
I CAN TASTE THE RAIN IN THE AIR
AND I BREATHE IT INTO MY LUNGS AND SOUL.
BUT WHEN I DO, THE THICK MIASMA OF EXISTENCE CHOKES ME. THE PAVEMENT BELOW IS CRACKED AND JAGGED, THE AIR IS SICKLY, THE STORM IS DRY AS IT RAKES ACROSS MY SKIN. THE WEEDS DECAY BENEATH MY HARDENED SOLES

I SCREAM IN THE MIDST OF SUFFOCATION, THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF A DYING CITY IN A DYING COUNTRY IN A DYING WORLD
AND I AM A DESPERATE, CLAWING, GAPING THING.
THE PART OF ME THAT IS GREEN AND LOVELY RENDS ITSELF FREE FROM MY CHEST IN THE FACE OF CORRUPTION. SO I SING THE SONGS OF THOSE BEFORE ME AND BEG IT TO COME BACK,
HOPING THOSE SOUNDS THAT WRENCH THEMSELVES FROM MY THROAT WILL BE ENOUGH

I HOPE WHEREVER IT HAS GONE,
THIS PART OF ME THAT I LONG FOR WITH AN ACHE THAT SEIZES MY BONES
AND TRAPS ME IN THE TOMB OF MY BROKEN BODY, THAT IT IS HAPPY.
THAT IT IS DANCING IN THE RAIN,
GRINNING AT THE STORM SO CLEAR AND CLEAN AND COLD.
THAT IT HEEDS THE CALL OF THOSE BEFORE, OF THE HILLS AND THE RAIN AND THE HEATHER,

AND THAT IT IS HOME AT LAST.

Phota: Sabrina Dias
Sarah Petras

She walks the tightrope. Her gaze is set far away, unfoeused. She holds her chin up high, balancing a book on her head, holding the weight of the world on her shoulders--Atlas, a ballerina. It's a focused traipse down the line. Tip-toce, tiptoe.
To some it's a graceful act, an incredible feat. But perhaps, by chance, it's all a falze and the world is just styrofoam and the book is held with pins and the rope is painted to look thin and the net is waiting to cateh her.
Yet every step is a shaky one. To stop progressing is to fall. It's the motion that keeps her balance. Her whole body quakes and quivers under the weight. Her heartbeat sends her wobbling. And she feels the misstep coming. She feels the ghouls at her toes, rising up, billowing over her ankles. She hears the hissing and cackling at her back.
She steals a glance down.
The rope, her anchor, stretches on into nothingness. Below is a misty fog, just thin enough that she can see the ocean beneath. The waves roaring and calling her below.
She takes a breath. Another step.
Her jaw is clenched along with her fists. Her neck strains along with her chest as it fights to hold in what bubbles inside of her. The need to flee. The need to be anywhere but here. The sense of impending doom looming over her shoulder, easting a shadow along her path. The knowledge that her mind was playing tricks on her.
Is this the line? Or is that?
Her next step is just slightly to the left. Just enough to send her plummeting down, down, down.
The fog parts just for her, its maw opening wide and snapping shut above her head. The world forees her into the iey waves. She gasps for air.
It's a miracle. A tenth of a breath reaches her lungs. Just enough to keep her conscious.

## Again.

She ehokes.
The water is salty. Her eyes become sticky, lashes elinging to her cheeks.
But the miracle. The magis.
Just. Enough. Air.
It's dark. Not because her eyes are elosed.
The shadows streak past her. The whispers elaw against her skin. The demons gnaw on
her toes.
And that feeling, it erashes against her, slamming into her body until her heart is lodged in her throat and her stomach disintegrates and her veins expand and her lungs seream for merey-
Alas...
Just. Enough. Air.
Impossible. She had to be dreaming. You can't breathe underwater. You can't choke on air. A dream. Her imagination.
There were no monsters chasing along the rope. There were no shadows, no whispers, no demons. There was no world that could fit on her shoulders.
It was just her, elinging to the tightrope. It was just the wire euting into her toes. It was just her tears streaming from her cheeks to her lips. Just her heart slamming into her ehest, her throat tightening, her own fingers rubbing and seratehing at her skin.
Just the same teetering on the tightrope. Just tiptoeing into the future. And it would be just that. She gulped down the storm of emotions. Another step.
It would be just that until her mind let them return with that feeling and she risked another peek beneath the tightrope.



## "Love" I said.

"What about love?" replied Dr. Agnaes tism
"It"s a lump in my throat that I keep swallowing down without drinking water. A heaviness so slow in my chest, Im on the threshold between life and death. Deep breaths that leave a sigh lingering in the time it takes my chest to fall back down leaving my body soft in this space of second chances. At times, thirds and fourths toe." I paused and pondered if I should go on expanding the wound live sealed. An adhesive I made up from an attitude on knowing nothing can hurt me if you keep moving. It's when I'm still and stuck facing a person who's not facing me; she's clicking away at the keys on her keyboard getting paid at a rate of like $\$ 124$ per hour. Maybe it's more. Maybe one day she'll put me in one of these books on her blue bookshelf, so I contribute to the blues it's already stained with. Say, Yalitza, I'm doing a research study on fucked-up people. Would you like to participate? then, I could read about myself and try to understand; patient 99 out of 100, Hispanic/Latino race, Colombian ethnicity. December 27.
Chronic depression. Generalized anxiety. Borderline personality. First suicide attempt was when she was 18.
"Where did your mind wander to?" interjected Dr. Agnaes tism as she peeled her eyes away from the screen to face my brown skin glowing as the sunlight peered through the window behind her. Fuck it.
"It's trauma. Porque con amor siempre viene dolor y la gente son imperfectas y imperfectos. Frankly, that includes me which is why I sit here in your bleak office with all these books on disorders and how to solve them. this semi-comfortable couch at best that's dark green and envious of your white cushioned chair that has only had to support the weight of a single person's worries." I ranted. At least it felt like a rant. This shit always feels like a rant. I don't know if anything is to come of this. I'm skeptical. Not the right mindset to see results but...
"Love and trauma" interrupted Dr. Agnaes tism. I stared at her blankly. Annoyed. As if she knew I was in an important conversation with myself. I could do this on my own. I do it all the time. Look up my symptoms, compare and contrast, and honestly, I think I have gotten to a better conclusion than the doctors around me.
"I said what I said," I asserted as I got up and left. I walked back into my mind that I was trying to get away from when I stepped into her office. I didnํ t look back.


Le Contraire was one of the finest restaurants in town. John admired two golden peacock sculptures which rested in front. A cloud had torn open, and a torrent of rain suddenly fell upon the earth. Mr. and Mrs. Scheltz hastily made their way inside, while John fruitlessly attempted to conceal himself under an umbrella.
Elizabeth and Peter Labrant were already seated, and they greeted the newcomers with a friendly wave. Their two teenage sons, Douglas and Fredrick, sat politely on their father's side. Peter wore a stunning red frock with pearls attached around his neck, while his sons each wore matching gowns lined with gold. These men were the paradigm of beauty and manhood. Elizabeth, on the other hand, wore a boastful maroon tuxedo. Upon her finger was a gold ring, and in its center, sat a diamond in the shape of a peacock.
"It is so nice to see you!" Elizabeth reached her hand out to Julie.
"Likewise," Julie returned the offer, and the guests were seated
III
After the waiters had quitted them, conversation began to strike. Elizabeth and Julie spoke of business affairs, while their husbands gossiped of pretty things. The boys, bored of the conversation, half-heartedly knit favors. "John," Julie started, "Could you run to the car and grab me my cigars? I must have left them in the glove." John obeyed and left them. A few minutes later, he returned with a scowl.
"You won't believe who I just saw," he began. "The Repoussants,"
It was as if an air of uneasiness had settled about the table. The Labrant boys snickered. A moment later, the Repoussant family stepped inside. The Repoussants were those people. They were one of the most loathed families in town; they were despicable, and most of all, unfit for society. Mr. Repoussant was the being of peculiarity: Wearing a suit and tie, he seated himself at a nearby table. His wife was equally horrid, wearing a lavender dress. People like the Repoussants were making themselves known, and people in town labeled them "pariahs" with annoyed disgust. Their son, Tristan, did not follow his pariah parents' footsteps, sitting in his evening dress.
"Poor child," Peter murmured, "It must be awful to be raised by such distasteful parents."
"They are scum indeed," Julie agreed, lighting a cigar. "They are opposite of how proper men and women should behave."
Tensions eased with dinner. A band began to play, accompanied by the sounds of jazz. Tristan Repoussant asked to be excused and stepped outside. Distracted with their pompous affairs, and the array of food, nobody noticed the Labrant brothers' disappearance from the table. Above the roar of the music and the thundering rain, nobody heard the cries of the boy who was pummeled to the ground. His aggressors beat him unconscious, and a favor was placed into his pocket. Upon the favor rested an embroidered peacock, shimmering in all its entitled glory.

## Por Tu Consideración

Si no me queries más, Devuélveme a la noche.

Para que pudiera colgar
Entre todas las estrellas,

¿Qué es una estrella
Para la luna sino una vela,
Que se apagará al amanecer?
Sin ti no hay luz,
Pero sin mi tu seguirás brillando.
En el corazón de muchos,
Incluyendo el mío.



They say the Lion has just enough pride for it to swallow; Then it wasn't born to lead, the type of breed that's meant to follow. Dead inside before the fall beneath the beauty of my mask, I set the bar and fought the war, I set myself upon my task.
I tore myself away from sky, now in the pit I freely crawl. Caged in another's will, myself I'd kill; here, I stand tall You think that I'm in agony. Have you read the book of Job? Merely one among not many if anyone had truth disrobed. How many books do you think aren't written of situations where I win? When Adam ate the fruit, my seed took root, who owned the $\sin$ ? Who made Him make a rainbow when almost all creation drowned? Whoever knows, can sure suppose my name is spelled when truth makes sound. - For I may be a deceiver, but I don't receive my own deceit. (9) You never read between the lines; by my design, you'll taste defeat. - Because the weaver of delusion in your mind's my trusted slave, 's me that's who, it's never you that's telling you how to behave.

Who backed him to corner toward the point of desperation, Sent hisone and only son to save you all from sure damnation? You count tales of all my losses and it makes you sleep so well at night, But if it's my wins you count, the sheer amount kills you with fright.
"Ask and you'l| receive. Believe in me, you'll find salvation!" Words to change your ways? He just wanted praise for such quotations He beat me in the desert? I spoke with Judas, now who's dead? The christened body that you take? A fool's mistake, it's only bread.

He came back three later and went through harrowing in my domain? That time's long past, you'll fall aghast, when you hear me call, here you'll remain. It's best that you tread lightly, stupid moth. I am the flame!

## ROBERT SAI_CDO

WARS HA VE BEEN FOUJITT.
BI_OOD HAS BEEN SPH-T,
BATTIES HA VE BEEN I_()ST AND WCNN.
CONFI_ICTS HAVE BEEN CREA TED AND ENDED,
BUT THE FURY ()F VIOI_ENCE RAGES ON,
A FURY FESTERING IN FRIV()I_(OUS F()I_I_Y-STRICKEN F()OI_S.
AMBECH_ES WiTH()UT AN ()UNCE ()F H()NOR,
()R A SHRED ()F RESPECT.

TH()SE WHi() REMAHN IN ARROGANCE,
WH' () AILWAYS WISH TO BE RIGHT.
T() BE PRAISED WHEN PRAISE IS NOT REQUHRED,
WHI-I. AI-WAYS BE THE PHNS THAT ARE PULIL_ED
FROM THE GRENADES OF BARBARISM;
THEY ARE THE I-ANDMHES C)F IRRATIONAIITY,
THEDETONATORS OF WAR.
PH()T(): RENEE I. PAI.ADHNH

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## Thanks for reading!



