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Pathology of Exile

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Original by Paula Cucurella

Translated, from the Spanish, by Alaric López

Among my symptoms: the congenital need to be misunderstood
worsens the tendency to lose the thread.

But between you and me, *América*,
we've come to master the art of controlled hallucination
to normalize blindness,
like lovers,
even when I feel used by your language
and I get payback spitting your name in three initials
and you soothe me whispering last minute offers.

Via loudspeaker, *América*,
you sound so sweet.

And I forgive you everything, thanks to your excellent Internet connection
I stroll through your body, *América*, as if it were my bedroom
—the same damn eternal warmup routine—

[I'd prefer a punch in the face]

And what will we do about the bastard we make in my mouth?
Which of our surnames will we choose?
I'll take any name you give me, *querida*
this tongue adores the taste of your skin.

Patología del Exilio

Entre los síntomas: la necesidad congénita de ser malentendida
acentúa la tendencia a perder el hilo.

Pero entre tú y yo, *América*,
hemos llegado a dominar el arte de la alucinación controlada
haber normalizado la ceguera,
como enamoradas,
aún cuando me siento utilizada por tu lenguaje
y me desquito escupiendo tu nombre en cuatro siglas
y tu me arrullas susurrándome ofertas de última hora.

Por altoparlante, *América*,
suenas tan dulce.

Y te perdono todo por la excelente conexión a internet
me paseo por tu cuerpo, *América*, como si fuese mi dormitorio
—los mismos actos eternos de precalentamiento—

[preferiría un puñetazo en la cara]

Y qué vamos a hacer del engendro que creamos en mi boca?

Cuál de los dos apellidos vamos a escoger?
aceptaré por nombre lo que me llames, *querida*
esta lengua adora el sabor de tu piel.

Selections from *Demasiada luz para hacer poesía* (pub. 2020 Doble A Editores, Santiago, Chile), by Paula Cucurella, translated by Alaric López with permission from the author.

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Paula Cucurella is a philosopher, poet, and translator. Her poems have been published in Mexican poetry journals (Círculo de poesía, Revista Monolito, La Rabia del Axolote, and Revista Marcapiel) and in Revista Laboratorio (Chile). She is the literary translator of *El Can de Kant* by David Johnson (Metales Pesados, November 2018), *El Mundo en Llamas* by David Johnson (Pólvora Editorial, 2019) and co-translator of *Bottles to the Sea* (SUNY, 2014), and of poems by Rosa Alcalá and Eileen Miles. Her academic articles and literary essays are published in *The New Centennial Review*, *Revista Laboratorio*, *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*, and *Latino Studies*. Her first theory book *Nicanor Parra, Jacques Derrida, y la poesía en tiempos de censura: un ensayo* is forthcoming from Pólvora Editorial (Chile, 2020). *Los últimos inanes días* (2020), her book of fragments and vignettes, is also now available as an electronic-only publication from Doble A Editores. Paula currently teaches in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP), USA.

Alaric López is a musician, songwriter, intermedia artist, poet, and literary translator. Since 2012, Alaric has recorded, released, and performed his music under the alias Monarcadia (available through his Bandcamp site monarcadia.bandcamp.com or via all major streaming platforms). He has had poems published in the *Rio Grande Review*, and has held multimedia performances around El Paso, TX, including at the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts. Alaric is currently in the MFA Writing program at UCSD, where his work attempts to develop new poetic forms through multimedia experimentation, and intermedia forms that effectively blend his various interests and practices. He can be found on Instagram at @monarcadia.

Previous

Next

← Two Poems

An Attempt at Jealousy →

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