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THREE POEMS

BY SAMANTHA ZIGHEBOIM

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Dream #1

While a white lily unfurls a white lie about a heatless and heartless summer, we are sweating under city lights on a rooftop somewhere in Manhattan. Above us the cool odor of extinct evenings perfumes the lily-white starlight that is not as bright as the mascara smudges under your eyes, though frighteningly close. There are white lilies and white envelopes containing blackened letters sprouting up from the concrete beneath your feet and you hop around like hopscotch avoiding the poisonous weeds.

Two Dreams about Emily Dickinson

I.

You are tending to your black-eyed
orchids and sticky-stemmed gladiolas
and I am hiding behind a whispering
blackberry bush hoping you will prune
the wrong branch and discover me there,
waiting.

Somewhere it begins to rain.
You are laughing because you've forgotten
something behind the gardenias and I say,
no, silly! you haven't forgotten a thing—it's
all right there in that puddle below your
window.

II.

In the same room that bore the entire body
of your poems we are laying on a sofette
upholstered in white linens and your breath
is thick against my neck as you weave
quatrains into my curls.

The lace skirts underneath your petticoat

Are peeking through and I am fixated
on the milky-white crevice inside your
left knee where I know your next poem
will be written.

I'm Not Saying

I'm not
saying
that I
don't
still remember
you
not
remembering
me.
Neither
here
nor
there
would your
letters
not be
restless,
not
marching
out of shoeboxes
like autumn
without

fires
without
ash--
I'm not
saying
because I
didn't
say at all.

Samantha Zigelboim is a Venezuelan-American poet and translator. She recently graduated with a BFA in Writing for Publication, Performance and Media from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, where she specialized in poetry, short fiction and creative translation. Previously, Sam studied at El Instituto de Diseño de Caracas in Caracas, Venezuela, majoring in graphic communications. She is the managing editor of *Rattapallax*, a journal of international poetry. Her translations have been published in *Rattapallax*. She currently lives in New York City.

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