

Luz Stella Mejia – Three Poems

New Year' Eve

Even knowing that nothing ends today
and tomorrow nothing starts in this ellipse
in which the days run
—Or better,
 understanding
 that all mornings die old at night
 and every new day is born from the sleepless shell,
 with all its minutes promising premieres—
We play the almanac game
we tear off the last page like a tear at a party:
a little for joy, a little for nostalgia,
 an inward pain for each goodbye,
and we open the next one like a cream pie
so smooth and unexplored, nothing has touched it,
with its perfect days waiting
our imperfect imprint:
love plowing the furrow of their land
and acts that make them memorable
on our calendar.

ESL: English in the *Sótano de mi Lengua*

Sometimes I wake up with my English in the basement,
so I have to go down twisting, dark stairs,
fumbling for the words that are hidden
between old radios, broken furniture, and moldy mirrors.
I find boxes of old costumes
and I stumble upon the Robin Hood's hat,
the mask of the Phantom of the Opera
or Hamlet's skull but
I can't find the everyday things,

the words that I need in my day are hidden in dark corners.
Suddenly I hear a squeak and some light steps
that cross in front of me
but I don't see the words slip through the cracks.
So I sit on the cold floor with a piece of cheese,
waiting for them.

Innocent as doves

The pain came and took my mouth away,
a dove died under the weight of air,
my feet get tangled in snakes
and I know that some will finally take me
to their dark lair
Or maybe I'm already there in the stench
of dried corpses
How many orphan feathers
How many broken bones
can fit in the mouth of the lie?

Luz Stella Mejía is a writer and marine biologist. She has published two books of poetry in Spanish, *Etimológicas (Etymological)*, in 2020 and *Palabras sumergidas (Submerged Words)* in 2018. Her poems have been included in the anthologies *Crossfire: Epic Anthology - Bilingual* (2020), *Voces en la madrugada* (2020), *Quemarlo todo: Antología contra la dictadura (Burning it all: Anthology against the dictatorship)* in 2021, and *Spring's Blue Ribbon: International Poetry* (Verlag Expeditionen, 2021). Her poem "That peace I want" won honorable mention in the contest "Thousand Poems for the Peace of the World, 2019". She is an editor and collects books in Spanish to share them with the Hispanic community in the Washington DC metro area.