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Hermana/Sister

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Hermana/Sister

For the word sister
I spell with L,
I think of us.
Sister with L the lucha
because we struggle side by side
not even knowing it.
We are both there,
but to each other,
remain invisible.
Your name is not familiar
but your face I always knew.
I see it every morning in the mirror.
My reflection, your face.
Mujer Latina
mujer hermana:
I write of you with L de lucha
for what we've done thus far.
I write with you with L de libre
for what is ahead of us,
our esperanza.

For the word sister
I spell with A,
I think of you.
Sister with A de angustia:
because I see you take his beatings
because I can hear you cry at night,
because I know you give it all to them,
because I fear they blame it all on you.
I've been with you with A de amiga.
I was right there with A de ayuda.
I want to merge in you with A de alma.
I daily think of you with A de amante.

Mujer Latina,
mujer hermana:
I want to help you dust,
but not your house,
your dreams.
I want to help you mend,
but not his shirts,
your scars.

For the word sister
I spell with R,
I think of me.
Sister with R de rabia,
por no saber cómo llegar a ti,
por perder tiempo,
por dejarte sola,
por esperar en vez de avanzar.
Rabia because god failed us
long before
we had even been born.
Mujer Latina,
mujer hermana:
ardo por dentro cuando pienso en ti.
I want my fire to leave no ashes;
I want it to erect
and not to tear apart.
I want my blazes to spread to your backyard
and join us,
bright and passionate,
always,
in sisterly war.

For the word sister
I spell with C,

I think of her.
Sister with C de compania,
sister with C de comarada,
sister with C de continuemos
sister with C de coño,
I want better for us.
Nos pertenece.

-Jocelyn A. Géliga Vargas