

Carmen Rodriguez / HER MEMORY

Translation by Heidi Neufeld-Raine with the author

Daughter

teacher and housewife
middle class job
suit and tie
poor-man's salary
housewife
married to a man
married to the dishes
dirty laundry
unmade beds
floors to wax
coins to stretch

granddaughter

miner and washerwoman
silicosis
wages paid in food stamps
thirteen children
nine dead
diarrhea
hunger
bare feet
dirty laundry
of the bosses
collars
table cloths
sheets
frills
flounces
of the bosses

tuberculosis
of the grandmother
washed away
at thirty six

mother

of three
all alive
two fathers
many lives
countries
the odd tear
lots of love
fractures
ditches
tangle
fat braids
morning laughter
overwork
single mother
passports
stories
interrogations
diapers
two tongues

I stretch
can't reach
I break
I spread
arrive

two extremes
the same continent
contains me

contains
me

axis
elevator
ladder
multi-home

we are
no longer
the ones
we were

and those
still to come
who will they be
great-great-grandchildren
of miner and washerwoman
great-grandchildren
of teacher and housewife
children of the three
children of
daughter
granddaughter
mother

woman

working towards a definition
in the light of
two tongues
many lives
a continent
stretched out
from one end
to the other

and one struggle

SU MEMORIA

hija

profesor y dueña de casa
pega de clase media
ternito y corbata
sueldo de pobre
dueña de platos sucios
ropa sucia
camas sin hacer
piso que encerar
plata que estirar

nieta

minero y lavandera
silicosis
sueldo en fichas
trece niños
nueve muertos
diarrea
hambre
pies pelados
ropa sucia
de patrones
cuellos
manteles
sábanas
canesús
volados

de patrones
tuberculosis
de la abuela
washed away
de treintaseis

madre

de tres
todos vivos
dos padres
muchas vidas
países
alguna lágrima
harto amor
quiebres
zanjas
maraña
trenzas gordas
risas de mañana
triple jornada
single mother
pasaportes
cuentos
interrogatorios
pañales
dos lenguas

me estiro
no alcanzo
me rompo
me extendo

llego
dos extremos
el mismo continente
me contiene

eje
ascensor
escalera
multi-casa

me define
nos define

ya no somos
los que fuimos

que será
de los que vengan
bisnietos de minero y lavandera
nietos de profesor y dueña de casa
hijos de los tres
hijos de
hija
nieta
madre

mujer

en vías de definición
a la luz de
dos lenguas
muchas vidas

un continente
estirado
de punta
a punta

y una lucha

washed away: muerta (en este contexto)
single mother: madre sola