
The Case of Charity Lamb (2017)

Arts and Humanities in Action

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Fingerless

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Preface: the sun, moon, and eclipse

We only immerse the tips of our fingers
In caution
Or in fear of being completely open
Much in the same way people here hold open arms to the sun
While I am still nursing sunburns
From days where I too thought sunlight was fleeting
You see
I compete with the seasons to see who can move forward faster
I see sun and I see anew,
Light may travel fast but darkness is always there first

In the same sense that
I worry people will notice the tear in my dress
Or the slight smell of smoke
Attached to my bag
From all the smoke signals i gave
That turned to ash
They might ask about all the books on my shelves
That I have taped shut
Stories I'd rather not tell
Because even the moon has a dark side we cannot see

Which is why people are entitled to an overlap
Eclipses, although intriguing and intense,
Are short-lived and a decent reminder
Every moment we aren't living, we are leaving behind
The shadows define our every footsteps
Heighten even
But in totality we see the collision
Only in complete darkness does fear look the same as acceptance

All is well
So long as light returns

Gretel Valdes, "Fingerless"