

La Despedida

*Time flows out from the Beginning
Sweeps past indiscernible*

*But someone came and capped it off
Put it between bookends
Slipped in a glass pane
and time curled back on me,
everything magnified
heavy
slow*

*I've dealt with despedidas
Goodbye's a near science
 Good luck, do well, God bless
But now goodbye is mine*

*When
strangers have become family
and eyes are trained on my face
like they've never seen me before
and they realize
I am
finite*

*I try to gather
moments under my wings
to wear gravity
like the lead vest at the dentist
but I find it an impossibility*

*So I sit in the shadow of the punctuation mark
skim through books opened-up to the middle
and let time wash over me*