

Valentina Cano

An Apology, Perhaps

Another second spent
dividing your face into squares,
placing expressions on grids,
dissecting looks with the sharpest of blades,
sealing everything with police tape.
Surrounding you in silence,
and in turn, myself.

The Key

It's like a slippery thought,
slick with conversation,
warmed by too many hands.
The more I grasp at it,
the more I expel it,
siphon it out,
until it leaves my hands and disappears.

Valentina Cano is a student of classical singing who spends whatever free time she has either reading or writing. Her works have appeared in numerous publications and her poetry has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Web. Her debut novel, *The Rose Master*, was published in 2014 and was called a “strong and satisfying effort” by Publishers Weekly.