

Three Poems by Valentina Cano

Planning a Death

She planned it like a soufflé.
Timing took top billing
with a steady hand a close second.
She turned the steps over and over
like dinner plates,
trying to find the nicks and scratches.
She had no back-up dish waiting in the fridge,
so it would have to do.

Itinerary

The day trembled
like a violin's voice,
wavering and blurring
as he tried to catch up
with the cat's cradle
of words sewn on his palm.

The Sphinxes

He stands in a triangle of women.
Silent, arms flat at their sides,
Women of mortar veins,
concrete blood.
He hasn't heard their husked voices
in lifetimes,
but they still wrest answer after answer
from his drying, salty mouth.

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.