

# Ascension

We lay on the hood of your '96 Tercel  
watching the planes land underneath  
an unusually clear L.A. sky,

imagining heading off to lands  
where money is abundant  
like sand and possibilities.

And when "Love Song" by The Cure played on the radio,  
you dragged the tops of your fingernails  
up and down my forearm,

as we shared the same early memories of  
smoking bidis for the first time  
in your step-mom's basement,  
watching 1970s porn like it was a documentary,  
reciting each other's fortunes from our Chinese takeout.

Logic dictated that you wouldn't like me,  
allow me to touch the scar on your right eyebrow  
and ask for its story.  
But you did.

You confessed to enjoying the silence of  
libraries, funeral homes, churches.  
Became an atheist when your parents divorced,

left you wondering if you would ever be a good father.

Feeling the coldness of metal on my back

I inched closer to your side of the car,  
listened to the unevenness of your breath  
between the sounds of jet engines.

## Luivette Resto

Luivette Resto was born in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico but proudly raised in the Bronx. Her first book of poetry *Unfinished Portrait* was published in 2008 by Tia Chucha Press and later named a finalist for the 2009 Paterson Poetry Prize. She is also a contributing poetry editor for *Kwelli Journal*, a *CantoMundo* fellow, and the hostess of a monthly poetry reading series called *La Palabra* located at Avenue 50 Studio in Los Angeles. Her next book *Ascension* will be available in April 2013 courtesy of Tia Chucha Press.

