## Nissie Arcega

## Parentheticals (Are)(Or) Gaping Wounds

```
On (my)(your)
(mornings)(nights),
I am reminded that
there's a (lump)(bruise)
(on my neck)(down my throat)
where your
tongue
used to be,
and I fail to resist
crashing,
falling,
dissipating
   Sinisi
   (ngil na)
   kita
         sa lahat.
(Were you hoping to find what made you part of this side of the world
inside me?)
  (Bawal)(Mahirap)
   pumili
         pero pinili (ako)(ka)
          pero pinilit (ako)(ka)
```

```
My (legs)(heart)
come(s) apart
years (weeks) at a time
(Walang katapusan—)
on the second bed
(Walang kupas—)
I've had since
         (Walang ikaw.)
came through them
and left (fled)
back to your life
in a city (where I only exist
in the liminal spaces
of your memory)
(where all remnants
from this side of the world
will eventually leave your skin)
(where the Pacific never
crashes into the Atlantic)
(where the sun shines only
for me to chase after it)
```

Sinisingil na kita sa lahat.

Envoy Bumubulong ang mga alon 'pag nakikipaghalikan (sa paa) (sa mukha) (sa kamay) ng bangin