

Spring 1980

## Family Secret translated by Elisabeth Hamilton-LaCoste

Blanca Varella

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FAMILY SECRET

I dreamed about a dog  
a skinned dog  
his body singing his red body whistling  
I asked the other  
the one who turns out the butcher's light  
what happened  
why are we in the dark

it's a dream you're alone  
there is no other  
light doesn't exist  
you are the dog you are the flower that howls  
softly sharpen your tongue  
your sweet black tongue on four paws

the burning you feel in dreams  
is the human hide disappearing  
only this dog's red pulp is clean  
the real light's in the crust  
of the dog's eye  
you are the dog  
everynight you are the skinned dog  
you dream of yourself and that's all

*translated by  
Elisabeth Hamilton-LaCoste*