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Half Light; Waivers and Maps

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FATIMA ESPIRITU

HALF LIGHT

I understand now why I could not look away

from the drawings of a certain butterfly

which survived predation
during the industrial revolution
because it matched the color
of the era's pollution

Were its predators to approach
only closely enough, they'd be seen
as they were, which they one
day would

To perch is not a crime or a
liberation. It is an action and a fact
wrapped up in the context of a
monochromatic map.

To fly into a clean home doesn't
mean to live in a dream, but to slowly
starve until pinned. Did you

know a butterfly can only be pinned in a book
if its body is decorated just
after its death? Or if
its wings are
rehydrated, otherwise it dusts
off into fingerprints, wiped in
the same gesture an American makes
when they are talking about *moolah*,
money, change.

My half light is inside. My parents
didn't kid themselves the same
way yours did.

And if they did, stay with it. Don't
keep still.

A contender is a complicated sound,
flat feet astride the gems and then
the flower, each to win

FATIMA ESPIRITU

WAIVERS AND MAPS

Thermodynamics. If god
had emotion and what would happen
if gravity on earth immediately
went away. Half a ladder on a swivel chair.

I put an elevator in my no.

It did not roam.

A grasshopper farm, each charge
named patience.

The American Studies Departments
are dissolving, she said with a weep
in some part of her body. She stood
to tell the children *you're allowed*
to eat. Your ten minute break
is after math. I made your memory
think of a jellyfish.

The children play a children's game
in which the dead can't vote, can't watch

like coordinates, emotion in a weather. Quick
ideas I promise. A long time probably
Being a jack of all trades is being master of one
trade. She told me to stop
saying liminal. I didn't say that's exactly
the point.