

*goodbye to all the things we loved
and those that never came true*



*la despedida de todo aquello que
amamos y todo lo que nunca se hizo
realidad*

What Happens: In the Grasses
Issue no. 01 – ECLIPSE

INTRO: ECLIPSE, *when the absence of light creates a coming together.*



In July 2020 I was invited by SUNY Purchase Theater Conservatory in New York to write and direct a digital play. This was to be a collaboration between actors and artists from Purchase and the Escuela de Teatro de la Universidad Mayor in Santiago, Chile. It seemed like an act of magic, to make theater on a virtual stage with a multi-territorial and bilingual team that combined the essence of my many identities as a Chilean-American playwright, performer and language teacher.

We started to work during lockdown. Each person joined virtually from their bedrooms. We were on 4 different time zones from California, Texas, Santiago, New York, and Tijuana.

At the time, not only were we touched by the consequences of coronavirus, but also traced by many social uprisings: El Estallido Social en Chile and the BLM protests in the United States. The parallel revolutions made us bond. My role was to be a facilitator for collective testimony to happen. Eclipse was written by the actors in both schools, playwriting students in Santiago and me.

The text began with things that happened, what we said is what we saw. We wrote a container that allowed us to denounce that our countries do not care about their citizens in times of need. When official help is lacking, when militarized police are sent out to the streets, we are all we got for each other. The premise: If the authorities announce that in 24 hours your country will no longer exist, what would you take with you? Who would you say goodbye to?

Este es un texto bilingüe in between el Español y el Inglés. A space of slangs and language clumsiness, a desire to get to know each other. Eclipse's marvelous vocabulary transitions and merges, refusing word by word translations.

Our work process wanted to dissolve relations of power. I believe that the pandemic and the political reckonings facilitated our openness and honesty, conversations that exploded with urgency. The virtual space is still one we shared. However physically far we were from each other, we witnessed our tears, laughter, uncomfortable silences and body postures.

Eclipse was first shown digitally on October 14, 2020, as part of SUNY Purchase's "Digital Fall Festival". Protests and celebrations marking the one year anniversary of the Estallido Social in Santiago were happening at the time. We could hear helicopters and chants during rehearsals. Tear gas entered one actor's house. Meanwhile, at Purchase, there was a big covid scare, last minute CPR tests, relocations and quarantines. We had to move around the sets we had designed in each student's room. The chaos around us made arriving at the screen each day a symbol of our precarious safety. We held each other as small squares that appeared on a computer. Pixelated faces that transformed isolation into community y amor.

—Amelia Bande

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Production Notes:

ECLIPSE opened October 14, 2020, on Zoom at the SUNY Purchase Theater Conservatory “Digital Fall Festival”. Subsequent performances happened on October 16 and 18, 2020. All shows were subtitled.

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Footnotes are included in the text to denote the timestamps of musical acts. To follow along with the numbers you may refer to the link below: <https://tinyurl.com/k6m5ax36>

ECLIPSE

goodbye to all the things we loved and those that never came true

LA DESPEDIDA DE TODO AQUELLO QUE AMAMOS Y TODO LO QUE NUNCA SE HIZO REALIDAD

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This is an investigation on online theater.

It is not theatre, TV, or cinema. It's something else.

We are finding out what this is, together, as we work.

PERSONAJES/CAST

Noel Cifuentes – **Napkin** (the giver of information that he doesn't wanna give)

Amada Ceballos – **Rattlesnake** (free-flow gentle assistant)

Darián Negrón-Ortiz – **Skylight** (bureaucrat)

Cata Stephens – **Fuego** (angry citizen)

Janis Valenzuela – **Nube** (dreamy citizen)

Maklin Ramirez – **Sunset** (apocalyptic citizen)

Maite Pino Ortiz – **Camitas** (tired citizen)

Francis Pace-Núñez – **Bambi** (the musician)

1 PRÓLOGO

NAPKIN: 1, 2, 3, probando—*adjusts volume, equalizer, we hear weird sounds, interference*—1, 2, 3, can you hear me?

CAMITAS: Yes

NUBE: Sí

SUNSET: Más o menos

BAMBI: Now I do.

RATTLESNAKE: perfecto

FUEGO: Sí! Se escucha!

SKYLIGHT: Loud and clear

NAPKIN: I can't see anybody. But I hear you. Is Rattlesnake here?

RATTLESNAKE: Acá estoy, sí, I'm here—*rattle sound, light turns on.*

NAPKIN: Wonderful. Rattlesnake will be my assistant tonight. Me va a ayudar con la reunión.

NAPKIN: We begin the meeting. Thank you for coming with such short notice.

RATTLESNAKE: Damos por comenzada la reunión. Napkin, please continue.

Many windows, all dark, we can't see who is inside. A gentle buzz, almost like music. A light turns on in one of them. Napkin is in an office. We see many small led and christmas lights in the background, like a gigantic and strange computer system. Napkin wears an exaggerated and chaotic headset that tries to give an air of authority.

VOICES IN THE DARK

We see Rattlesnake sitting on the floor of a room surrounded by big rocks and plants, green clothes, un polerón con capucha, a hoodie, glasses, we can't tell if Rattlesnake is a man or a woman or a daddy or a mom or a dog or a pervert or a good boy.

VOICES IN THE DARK

GUNSHOTS

*Looking around for the source of the gunshots, surprised,
worried*

NAPKIN: Maybe on top of everything else we also need to disarm the country. Maybe there's too many guns in the street.

GUNSHOTS

RATTLESNAKE: Y de las otras armas. –Las silenciosas, las lentas que no se escuchan. Esas también hay que desarmarlas.

GUNSHOTS STOP, COMPLETE SILENCE

NAPKIN: Like animals who take over our territory. I need to make the news official. Everybody say “hi!”

AULLIDOS, HOWLS

EVERYBODY FROM THE DARK: Hi! Hello! Hola!

LOUD AND STRANGELY

NAPKIN: We have lived in this country for centuries. Some of us are originally from here, whatever that means. Some of us came later.

RATTLESNAKE: We speak two languages, que se convierten en un idioma muy particular. Se parece al inglés, pero no-lo-es.

VOICE IN THE DARK

SKYLIGHT: It is English, Spanish. It is the innumerable combinations of the two. We don't call ourselves bilingual. We are multilingual, infinitelilingual. We recognize the pain in these languages because we had to learn them later on, when the Urban Men came to our territory and forced our great great great grandparents to speak it.

RATTLESNAKE: En el subsuelo, más abajo de todo recuerdo, existen las lenguas ancestrales que nos hicieron olvidar para siempre. El lenguaje es lo primero que se extinguió y aún así logramos comunicarnos. Hubo mucha sobrevivencia en este lugar, hasta ahora, cuando solo nos queda despedirnos.

NAPKIN: Don't go ahead of yourself Rattlesnake! No te apresures. I called you all to this committee meeting today, as citizens of this territory, representatives of each group, in order to finalize our name as a country that once existed. As of now, it is forbidden to say the name of the country we once were: As of midnight we don't exist anymore. Skylight, gives us a bit of an update of the technical aspects of this decision.

SKYLIGHT: Correct. It is forbidden to say the name of the country we once belonged to. In person, or in writing, or online. Prohibido. The country we once were has ceased to exist as of midnight. Yesterday we existed. Today we don't.

NAPKIN: Please remember we live under the threat of a deadly virus that has the capacity of transmitting even through computer screens if extreme emotions are exhibited. If anything, we can look forward to leaving this place once and for all so we can perhaps be free elsewhere.

RATTLESNAKE: Por favor, calma. Comunicamos que en estos momentos vivimos bajo un virus que se transmite a través de las pantallas cuando se exhiben emociones extremas.

NAPKIN: Skylight, please continue with the report. Attention everybody.

SKYLIGHT: Se ha decidido—Que tenemos 24 horas desde la medianoche—From midnight yesterday to midnight tonight—Para hacer los preparativos antes de irse—Not only the name of the country has been ended but also the territory ends—Tenemos que irnos—Everybody will have a chance to speak their mind before we end permanently—Por eso estamos acá.

VOICES IN THE DARK REACT WITH EMOTION: EXCITEMENT, ANGER, DISBELIEF, RELIEF

Turn on Original Sound



¡No te adelantes, Rattlesnake! No te apresures.
Don't get ahead of yourself Rattlesnake! Don't rush.

EMOTIONAL REACTIONS

2 ESPEJOS / MIRRORS

FUEGO: // ¿cuántos espejos creen que haya roto este país para ser tan yeta? // how many mirrors did the territory break for its bad luck?

NUBE: // una fábrica entera de espejos y las fábricas de espejos que aún quedan por crear // a whole mirror factory and all the mirror factories that have not yet been created

SUNSET: // este país pasó por debajo de una escalera, y se le cruzó un gato negro, y dejó la cartera en el suelo, y abrió un paraguas adentro de la casa, y después lloró sobre la sal derramada. // this country walked under the stairs, and a black cat crossed its path, and it left the wallet on the floor, and it opened an umbrella inside the house and then, it cried over spilled salt.

BAMBI: // pero si caminamos en espejos quebrados desde hace no sé cuánto // but we have been walking over broken mirrors since i don't know when

CAMITAS: // odio mi reflejo en el espejo // i hate my reflection on the mirror

FUEGO: // desde el eclipse que quedó la caga, no, de antes, siglos antes en verdad // i think that since the eclipse it's all fucked up, no, from before then, centuries before really.

SUNSET: // el eclipse nos eclipsó, ahora todo es oscuro // the eclipse eclipsed us, now everything is dark

NUBE: // yo creo que el territorio de hoy es un castigo de nuestros ancestros // i think that this territory of today is a punishment from our ancestors

Rattlesnake, Skylight and Napkin go dark. 5 new squares turn on the lights.

FUEGO is surrounded by too many things in a completely chaotic environment, as if it was the house of a hoarder – alguien con el mal de Diógenes. totalmente sobrecargada de objetos. cosas que cuelgan del techo. en colores chillones, es como una rave adolescente. k-pop. fotos, afiches, dibujos en las paredes. Fuego has a patch on one of the eyes.

NUBE's place is pristine, clear and white and blue and shiny.

SUNSET is in a dark space with gothic undertones, maybe Sunset is a metal head–metalero–or a goth–gótico.

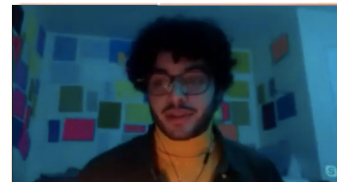
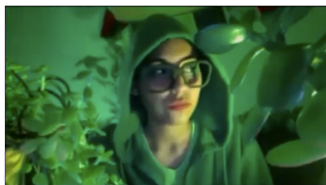
BAMBI lives in a recording studio, we see microphones, instruments in the background.

CAMITAS is in bed, many pillows, blankets, teddy bears, pastel colors.

CAMITAS: //si este país fuera una persona, a esa persona le barri-
eron las patas y con eso su suerte // if this country was a person,
and this person had its feet swiped and with that its luck

BAMBI: ¡ viva! – *Bambi begins to play the ukelele*¹

SUNSET: ¿está temblando? / is this an earthquake?



Ayer existimos, hoy no.
Yesterday we existed. Today we don't.

1 09:25

3 LA CANCIÓN / THE SONG

BAMBI:

- ↪ Solo quiero un hogar que sea seguro
- ↪ Anhele un corazón que sea libre
- ↪ Todo lo que quiero es espacio para sentir
- ↪ Quiero una alma ingravidaaaa...

FUEGO: oye Bambi, para

SUNSET: yes Bambi, stop

BAMBI: why?

NUBE: sí, ¿por qué?

CAMITAS: canta mas despacito porfa

BAMBI: ¿por qué?

FUEGO: para que no salga tanto virus de tu boca

CAMITAS: suavcito

NUBE: ¿para adentro?

SUNSET: para que no nos contagiemos

BAMBI: SINGS

- ~ Para que finalmente pueda dormir
- ~ Para que finalmente pueda respirar
- ~ Para que finalmente pueda amar
- ~ Para que finalmente tenga una vida

- ~ Anhele ser abrazado
- ~ Anhele ser besado
- ~ Deseo ser perdonado
- ~ Deseo espacio abierto

CANTA A TODO PULMÓN / SINGS LOUD¹

OTHER CITIZENS CAN JOIN THE SONG AS WELL

- ~ Para que finalmente pueda dormir
- ~ Para que finalmente pueda respirar
- ~ Para que finalmente pueda amar
- ~ Para que finalmente tenga una vida

1 10:20

4 OVNIS / UFOs

(pausa)

NAPKIN: The recess is over. We must continue with the meeting. There is not much time left. Rattlesnake?

RATTLESNAKE: Gracias a todos por esperar. Tenemos un reporte de Skylight con nuevas reglas respecto a nuestro éxodo.

SKYLIGHT: Alrighty. Important developments. We have flying saucers...

RATTLESNAKE: Platillos voladores

SKYLIGHT: Waiting at the end of the road, at the end of the day. Every citizen will take one to their new destination.

NAPKIN: Is it clear? Everybody leaves at the end of the day in a flying saucer out of the territory out of the country we used to be.

RATTLESNAKE: Recuerden que está prohibido decir el nombre del país que fuimos hasta ayer.

NAPKIN: Strictly forbidden to say the name!

NUBE: uuuu! Platillos voladores a lo desconocido

SUNSET: Fuck this shit this sucks.

FUEGO: Nos quieren tomar el pelo.

CAMITAS: Yo llevo mi almohadita.

NAPKIN: Ok, enough! This is not a joke.

FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL 8 SCREENS ARE ON. WE
SEE EVERYBODY.



5 TESTIMONIOS / TESTIMONIES

NAPKIN: In order to make this process as easy as possible we will start by allowing testimonies from citizens

SKYLIGHT: Vamos a mantener un archivo para la posteridad aunque para el país no haya tal posteridad

RATTLESNAKE: No hay un orden establecido, cualquiera puede empezar y...

SKYLIGHT: First time I hear about this, but it is not surprising given the police record during the last year. Fuego, continue please.

RATTLESNAKE: ¿Esto cuándo pasó? Skylight, did you have an archive of this event?

FUEGO: Cuando llegué a la comisaría sangraba mucho, me arrastraron hasta una celda y empecé a tratar de vendar mi ojo, y de detener la hemorragia. Es como cuando uno tira una piedra dentro del agua y vibra el agua, me pasó tal cual en el ojo. Un balín, que es menor al tamaño de una pupila, es una bala de goma redonda de 6 a 7 milímetros de diámetro, pero genera un impacto tremendo. Como si el globo ocular se abriera como una flor. Es lindo cuando se abre una flor, cuando ha recibido suficiente agua y sol y se ha nutrido de la tierra y ha crecido y quiere abrirse para mostrar su belleza. Pero ¿qué hago yo ahora con un ojo abierto como una flor? Un globo que ha recibido un impacto tan grande que se ha reventado y no puede cerrarse y hay que extirparlo. ¿Y quién me va a querer a mí con un pedazo menos de mi cuerpo?

→ RATTLESNAKE: La idea es tener documentación de este momento

NAPKIN: The microphone is open, whoever wants to begin...

*

FUEGO: Abrió fuego. Me llega un perdigón en el ojo, carabineros me pesca del pelo y me arrastra hasta la camioneta. Se empezaron a burlar de mí, que iba a perder la vista...un ojo menos, dijeron.

SKYLIGHT: El ojo humano, cuando no ve nada, solo detecta el movimiento. The human eye in the dark can't see clear images. El ojo humano es débil en la oscuridad. Le teme a lo desconocido. El ojo humano es binario, y cuando entra en panico solo puede pensar blanco y negro. El ojo humano no quiere verse negro al mirarse al espejo. The human eye wants to believe that everything is white. Wants to believe that white is good. Creer que el blanco es entendimiento y es salvación. El ojo humano quiere clasificarse cuando te mira. ¿Eres un blanco bien o un negro mal? the human eye, que omite más de lo que revela, te divide en primer mundo y tercer mundo. En extranjero y en inmigrante. En colono y en terrorista. El ojo humano, ni tan monstruo ni tan humano, te ve desde alguna parte, no importa donde, y te dice "Tu sí" o "Tu no". El ojo humano no quiere mirar a otros ojos humanos, con el temor de encontrar ya no un trozo blanco o negro, sino humanidad.

FUEGO: Mi ojo humano está ciego. Mi ojo humano está dormido. Mi ojo humano está cegado. Eso es todo lo que quería decir. Gracias.

SUNSET: Mis ojos humanos están intactos. I have both of them working. But it is my entire humanness which is divided. I would like to give testimony about this.

SKYLIGHT: Permission to give testimony granted to Sunset.

SUNSET: Humanness is humanness and I have come to realize that I've separated being a spanish human with an english human. Ha sido difícil to bring my spanish speaking life and english speaking life juntos. Sounds ridiculo. Internally I've become my own separator of humankind. Or at least lo he vivido asi. Creo que I need to be more "autentico". Ser iguales con cualquiera que te encuentres. Ser bilingüe me divide mi mundo. O a lo mejor yo lo divido.

RATTLESNAKE: Para lograr autenticidad...

SUNSET: I feel pleasure in running. I get high. I know Bambi knows what I'm talking about forsure. Our movement exercises we did at our 1st year training definitely give me pleasure. I don't do it all the time but cuando me siento mecanico y como un robot.... ooof! Mover mi cuerpo me vuelve humano otra vez. La meditación me hace sentir vivo también. Me revive. Resurrección en cada respiro. Si eso es. La respiración. Estar consciente en ella me hace muy feliz. Re feliz. Chevere chevere. Precisamente en este momento. Being aware of the moment and our ability to connect through...

CAMITAS: These exercises will not save us from the threat. The violence.

→SKYLIGHT: One must connect with pleasure.

SUNSET: Our time in this country has ended. But as you move on to a new place, how will you maintain your au-ten-ti-ci-dad?

Bambi plays some instrumental music. Everybody starts doing their movement exercises!

NUBE: Pero Sunset tiene razón. Yo no puedo ayudar a alguien si yo mismo me estoy ahogando.

CAMITAS: Eso mismo estaba pensando hoy pero al revés. Si me estoy ahogando, nadie me va a ayudar.

NAPKIN: He descubierto que dentro de todo me gusta vivir y que quiero seguir intentándolo, seguir viviendo a pesar de todo los males de este país y how difficult it was to live in this country.

FUEGO: It's easy for you to say that, Napkin, from your position. Yo quería seguir luchando por este país. Con ojo o sin ojo. Para permanecer, no para terminar.

NAPKIN: Can hope come from starting something new? That's why the decision was made. So something new can happen.

CAMITAS: Estoy cansada.

BAMBI: Go to sleep, the police is coming.

SKYLIGHT: Actually Bambi, no. The police are not coming. Police force was dismantled last night and all officers left already.

FUEGO: So there will be no accountability?

NUBE: Where did they go?

SUNSET: Probablemente a una isla tropical, with full retirement benefits.

NAPKIN: All we can do now is hear your testimonies.

BAMBI: Nuestras voces contra el fondo sordo de la injusticia eterna.

CAMITAS: Ok, whatever. I'll speak. During the revolution, 8 cops se bajaron de su police car, out of nowhere, and they tried to agarrarme from behind, a policía that was a woman, just like me, tried to hit me in the head, they wanted to secuestrarme and violarme. Fuego defended me and then they shot her in the eye. I hate cops and will always do. We will always be afraid of looking at their faces and walking in the street. I hate cops and will always do. Every time I see a cop in the streets I feel like I'm gonna pee myself. That's it. That's my testimony.

→SKYLIGHT: ¿Alguien más?

BAMBI: If I close my eyes I can still hear the crunch of his bones and all the screams. The tear gas truck was there and this kid came out running out of nowhere and the cops didn't stop, they went faster. He was run over. ppl were screaming, throwing rocks, I was frozen, I didn't know what to do, I saw it from faraway cos I was scared that the tear gas truck was going to run over me too. I went home, my legs trembling the whole time.

NAPKIN: Ok, Bambi, easy with the emotional display. We have time for one more testimony about the police.

RATTLESNAKE: Después vamos a cambiar de tema.

NUBE: Ya, yo voy. Un paco me disparó un perdigón en el muslo, a mi y a muchos compañeros le llegaron disparos. Recuerdo el ruido de los vidrios rompiéndose, el calor y el fuego de la barricada, fue muy rápido, cosa de segundos, toda la gente corrió y veo a 5 pacos apuntándome con la pistola, mis oídos se taparon, corrí pero ellos dispararon más rápido. Me quedé ahí en el suelo, con mi pierna sangrando.

FUEGO: No creo que a ellos les importen nuestras vidas

SKYLIGHT: This day today, this farewell, is our Revolution 2.0

SUNSET: Skylight, There is no revolution if you eliminate everything we were fighting against.

NUBE: Ahora me carga la canción esa de los prisioneros, esa de los que sobran. Me carga el perrito matapacos, y el pikachu, y el spiderman, y todas esas cosas que quisimos idolatrar. ¿Se podrá hacer una revolución sin pedirle autógrafos ni vender tacitas ni llaveros de los ídolos?

NAPKIN: Which one is the song about the leftovers?

FUEGO: (ladridos)

RATTLESNAKE: A otros le enseñaron secretos que a ti no. A otros dieron de verdad esa cosa llamada educación

NUBE: Ellos pedían esfuerzo / ellos pedían dedicación. Y para qué, para terminar bailando y pateando piedras

CAMITAS: Unanse el baile, de los que sobran nadie nos va echar de más, nadie nos quiso ayudar de verdad

FUEGO: (ladridos)

FUEGO, NUBE, RATTLESNAKE AND CAMITAS CANTAN¹

(ladridos)

(ladridos)

(ladridos)

BAMBI: Que hermoso ¿Me podrían firmar un autógrafo?

CAMITAS: Claro ¿Cuál es su nombre?

SUNSET: WTF, you'all gonna pretend you don't know Bambi now?

NUBE: ¿Que quiere que diga el autógrafo?

BAMBI: Que diga mi nombre y su nombre. It can say: Greetings to...my name, and then you all sign with your names. So our names are there together forever.

FUEGO: Ok, y quizás lo puedes poner en un marquito en tu casa. Para recordar. Para mostrarle a las visitas.

SUNSET: You'all are tripping. What house? We got no homes no more. We are never going to visit each other again.

NUBE: Do you think that it's because of our revolution that now the country has ended?

SUNSET: Where are all the police now? The generals? The ministers? The senators? The owners of the land? The CEOs?

CAMITAS: ¿Se fueron?

NAPKIN: What scared you about all of them?



Si nuestra nacionalidad se derrumba,
If our nationality falls apart,

6. PREGUNTAS / QUESTIONS

SKYLIGHT: Can you also hear the sound?

NUBE: Why are we scared?

BAMBI: Why shouldn't I?

FUEGO: What should I do?

NAPKIN: What would you like to do? What do you have to do?

What can I do? What can we do?

SUNSET: Can we do it together? Will we fall apart ?

CAMITAS: Is it wrong to fall apart?

NUBE: What can I do to not fall apart?

NUBE: Si hago algo malo y luego me arrepiento, ¿puedo ser feliz?

BAMBI: ¿Cuál es el país de los infelices?

SUNSET: ¿Está permitido llorar en vez de responder estas preguntas?

RATTLESNAKE: ¿Allá también están pasando helicópteros cada media hora?

BAMBI: ¿Vamos a querernos o vamos a odiarnos?

NAPKIN: ¿Cómo se quiere?

FUEGO: Is memory a type of love?

SUNSET: What is your first childhood memory?

CAMITAS: at what age were the good memories?

SKYLIGHT: do you remember your worst memory?

A SOUND, LIKE A BUZZING, LIKE A SCARY MELODY, LIKE A LOUD RATTLING IN THE SKY, LIKE THUNDER

SUNSET: Is it loud over there?

CAMITAS: Is it many people screaming? or ghosts?

RATTLESNAKE: Is it a helicopter?

NUBE: what is the first time you had the worst memory about this country?

VERY LOUD BUZZING SOUND. GUNSHOTS. AULLIDOS. DARKNESS.

BAMBI: If our nationality falls apart, what are we going to be proud about?

SKYLIGHT: ¿no se había acabado nuestra nacionalidad?

RATTLESNAKE: ¿Cuáles son los países más felices del mundo?

FUEGO: ¿Hay alguna “nacionalidad” de la que estar orgulloso?



7 AMOR / LOVE

PART 1

FUEGO: Hola bb, ¿estás durmiendo?

CAMITAS: Chi tutito, shhh

FUEGO: Quería hablarte de una cosa importante.

CAMITAS: En un ratito más mejor, ya? Estoy soñando que estamos en el bosque y un oso viene y te come y yo me quedo ahí sola con tu cadáver sin saber qué hacer.

FUEGO: Baby that's terrible. Better wake up.

CAMITAS: No Fuego, shhh, let me finish the dream so I can fix it and it can have a happy end. Final feliz. Shh.

FUEGO: Camitas, there 's no time left. We have another meeting in 20 minutes y de ahí tenemos que irnos del país para siempre. Despierta porfa.

CAMITAS: Ya bueno. I'm awake. What's up? Oh baby you look so beautiful.

FUEGO: No. I'm a mess. Mira. Un desastre.

CAMITAS: The room is a mess, but not you. You are beautiful. I love you.

FUEGO: I love you too. Very much. That's why we need to speak.

CAMITAS: I miss you. Virus estúpido. Quiero verte, abrazarte.

FUEGO: Bb estaba pensando. Why don't we speak with Napkin and Skylight and Rattlesnake so we can leave together?

CAMITAS: ¿Se puede eso?

FROM TOTAL DARKNESS EMERGES A GENTLE LIGHT ON CAMITAS WHO IS ASLEEP. FUEGO IS SURROUNDED BY HER THINGS, TRASH, ART.

FUEGO: No sé, pero why not? Nos vamos en el mismo platillo volador juntas and we can be together wherever the hell it is we are going after this.

CAMITAS: Last time we tried to live together, you lost your job and we couldn't pay rent and we got evicted.

FUEGO: ¡Eso fue hace mucho tiempo Camitas! Y no fue mi culpa que me echaran del sindicato de camarógrafos por perder mi ojo. Y no fue mi culpa que las cuentas del hospital me llevaran a la bancarrota.

CAMITAS: Yeah but look at us now. In love with each other but far away from each other and poor and about to leave this hellish place forever.

FUEGO: It's not like you have a job.

CAMITAS: Puta Fuego, I don't have a job because of my PTSD. I can't work.

FUEGO: No importa baby. Let's not get too emotional.

CAMITAS: Sí, hay que contener las emociones.

FUEGO: ¿Quieres irte conmigo?

CAMITAS: Sí quiero. Contigo.

FUEGO: Bien. I'm gonna ask Skylight if he can meet with us and talk about it.



PART 2

SUNSET: Hey Rattlesnake, you there?

RATTLESNAKE: Sí, acá estoy.

SUNSET: Wow you look super good!

RATTLESNAKE: Thank you. Napkin bought me a new computer screen.

SUNSET: So what do you think? We leave together?

RATTLESNAKE: I don't think it's allowed.

SUNSET: Me puedo esconder en tu platillo volador.

RATTLESNAKE: I don't know if it's a good idea.

SUNSET: Ever since you got elected to be Napkin's assistant you are not the same. We used to do everything together. We were best friends. We talked about our deepest secrets.

RATTLESNAKE: Things are not what they used to be.

SUNSET: Remember when we said we were going to build a house together? Open to all the young people who needed support, and we would give them food, a bed, a place to feel loved. That was our dream.

RATTLESNAKE: Hace poco encontré un cuento que hice a los 16 años donde hablaba de mis trastornos alimenticios y cómo un niño moría por querer complacer a los demás. Me traté en masculino inconscientemente sin saber que años después me replantearía mi identidad hasta el punto de querer vomitar todo ese estereotipo y expectativas que me presionaban el esternón. And now finally I can be who I want to be. I began taking hormones.

SUNSET: Yo siempre te he apoyado.

RATTLESNAKE: Sí, tu fuiste el primero en verme como yo me veo. Me entendiste más allá de hombre o mujer o perro o monstruo o ángel.

SUNSET: Y tú me quisiste aunque yo era un ciudadano "ilegal". I will never forget when you convinced everybody that I also deserved to have a contract and an ID and an education and to be allowed to drive a car and to be given a computer. All those things that were forbidden for people like me. You did that.

RATTLESNAKE: Y me alegra haberte ayudado. Pero ahora...

SUNSET: But now what?!

RATTLESNAKE: Son caras las hormonas. Hace cuatro meses me cerraron la cuenta de Tinder por querer vender packs para poder costearlas. Ojalá pudieran vender la testosterona a precio de aspirina. Y si pudiera me sacaría las tetas mañana. Napkin and Skylight said that if I leave with them they can help me pay for all of that.

SUNSET: So you are going to leave with them? To do what?

RATTLESNAKE: They want me to help build a new civilization with new people, not the people of this country.

SUNSET: Classy. Napkin and Skylight are smart motherfuckers. They see your value. They see all the organizing you did for undocumented citizens and y como peleaste por los derechos de los frikis y weirdos and cripples and sluts y los desviados y a los que nadie más quería. Napkin knows you have the skills to build a new country. The problem Rattlesnake is that they don't have the same generous vision as you do. And they will suck your blood up and put it to the service of some new corrupt system.

RATTLESNAKE: Siempre quise ser actor o modelo. Mírame. De a poco me convierto en esa fotografía en blanco y negro que miraba a mis siete años con anhelo. Y a pesar de todo lo que pueda reprochar, se siente bien. Me siento bien por primera vez y justo se acaba el país ahora... That's why I need to go with them. I can't interrupt my journey.

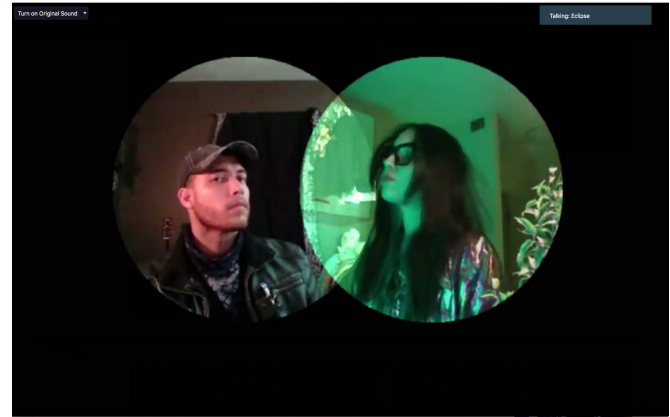
SUNSET: I wonder how this journey will feel for you once the people that love you aren't there.

RATTLESNAKE: I'm sorry Sunset. I wish you all the best.

SUNSET: Que dolor volver a empezar desde cero, los sueños que existían junto a ti se desvanecen. I hope you find what you are looking for. We all have different experiences. I don't know what it feels like to be inside your body. It just hurts to imagine life without you.

RATTLESNAKE: Te quise mucho Sunset.

SUNSET: Bye I guess.



TRANSITION BACK ONTO A MORE DREAMY SPACE. A SAD STRANGE MELODY. BACKGROUND OF IMAGES, LIKE A SLIDE-SHOW BEHIND THE “PEOPLE SQUARES”. THE IMAGES ARE OLD PHOTOS. OF A DIFFERENT TIME. CHILDHOOD, FAMILY, SIMPLE LIFE. WE ONLY SEE ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

8 MI PRIMER RECUERDO / MI FIRST MEMORY

NUBE: Excuse me. Is anybody here? Hi? I had a few questions, maybe someone can help me? When we leave tonight, will our memories come with us? My childhood is a haze of images, colors, light, darkness. I forget most things after they happen. I'm hanging from a cliff trying to hold the fragments of who I am. Of who I wanted to be. I'm scared to leave behind the things that made me a person. The first painful memory about my country...I don't know.

SUNSET: I remember when I found out that there was such a thing as different countries. I didn't understand that I was not a legal citizen until I asked about the flag I saw on TV. I thought that where I was born and here were the same. I didn't know the world was divided. I realized I couldn't just go see my grandma whenever I wanted. She couldn't just decide to come see me. Knowing that there was a country and that I didn't belong in it... esa fue el primer recuerdo doloroso de este país que ahora se acaba.

BAMBI: The way teachers treated me probably. A lot of people didn't understand me. A lot of teachers thought I was a bad kid because I was different. And they treated me like a bad kid. Like I didn't belong. I think that feeling of not belonging has stayed with me.

SKYLIGHT: When I was 4 my dad had to move to find work, and send money back to us. In the beginning of my life I never really understood how bad we were doing in terms of money. One really vivid memory during this time was my mom getting off the phone with my dad and I then asked her “¿Mami, cuando vamos a ver Papi?” and her telling me “soon”. We went to bed and I could hear her crying next to me thinking I was asleep. My father is a mechanic, and my mother never graduated past high school because she got pregnant with me at 17 and then at 19 again. I learned then that the world doesn't really care who you are, and it's up to you to pick yourself out of the mud. So my earliest memory of my country is that my country doesn't care who you are, it will drag you through the mud until you figure out a way to pull yourself out of it, or drown in the filth. I always wanted to pull myself out. I still want that.

RATTLESNAKE: I accompanied my father to an anniversary of la fosa encontrada in Pisagua—the mass grave in Pisagua. I remember being 7 or 8 years old o menos, no recuerdo bien. My father read his poems that he wrote during the dictadura and I didn't quite understand what was happening but I could perceive the pain of the people who were there. That was the first painful memory about my country.

CAMITAS: When I was 10 and my math teacher bullied me too, My mom couldn't change me to other school because we didn't have any money. My education is a bad memory. And hearing the military and cops shooting in the streets at night. And hearing the helicopters in the night during curfew.

NAPKIN: I was in kindergarten. My mom picked me up from school early. I remember my mom yelling on the phone while she was running with me. I remember her saying the airplanes had hit two big buildings and they could hit anywhere let's go let's go. And there were crowds of mothers running in the streets to get their kids. My mother told me that terrorists were attacking the country and that we needed to get Home.

NUBE: Es un recuerdo borroso, que tengo que desempolvar para poder verlo con claridad. Estábamos ella y yo en el parque, después de clases. Comíamos papas fritas y nos sonreímos, queríamos besarnos pero siempre nos sentíamos...bueno no importa, nos besamos igual. Me derretí como caramelo caliente. Habíamos escuchado tantas veces gritos como "porque no se encierran, váyanse de aquí" "Asquerosas" Cargábamos con el odio ajeno. Pero jamás nos afectó (tanto). Esa tarde, entre miradas, manos y sonrisas ví a mi papá. Me vió mi papá, me agarró del brazo y me alejó de ella "Mira como te encuentro, no vas a salir más me escuchaste?" Lloré un mar. Morí un poco esa tarde, recuerdo pensar "solo es un beso" estaba asustada, quería vomitar, en la bandera, en sus lenguas violentas, en sus ojos cegados, en los zapatos impecables de mi papá. Will we forget who we were? All the things we did, the people we loved?

FUEGO: For the big earthquake part of my family lived near the epicenter. We didn't know anything about them, they had no light, no phone service. We didn't know if they were alive or dead. My mom, my sister and I were day and night with the radio on listening to the news. It was a week without knowing about them, we only heard about the building divided in two where many people had died, the tsunami that took even more people, the looting, the military on the streets...but nothing about them.

9 NO AMOR / NO LOVE

SKYLIGHT: Hey Napkin

NAPKIN: Speak up my friend

SKYLIGHT: Fuego and Camitas want to talk with you about the possibility of leaving together in the same flying saucer.

NAPKIN: No se puede. We cannot risk people leaving together and then taking the broken inheritance of this place somewhere else. The whole point is that the entire idea of this country gets extinguished forever.

SKYLIGHT: But me and you are leaving together with Rattlesnake, no?

NAPKIN: Yeah but that's different, Skylight. We have a vision, and we have the endorsement and blessing of...

SKYLIGHT: We used to hate those people in power Napkin, remember? We formed our union so that we could fight against them and create better conditions for...

NAPKIN: Cuidado! My position was never to fight against. We wanted to instill change within. To sit down at the table with the government, with whoever had a say in how things worked and...

SKYLIGHT: I honestly feel ashamed of having worked with them after hearing all the testimonies from the citizens. Me and you, we used to be just like them, not too long ago. I don't understand why I would have the right to...

NAPKIN: It's easy to understand! We have been invested in improving basic life conditions, in enhancing equity policies, in the reform of militarization. I don't have enough fingers to point you to all the projects we've initiated. →

(NAPKIN): It's not our fault that the territory collapsed before the completion of these dreams! I refuse to leave with empty hands. I need you and Rattlesnake, a team! To continue our mission elsewhere.

SKYLIGHT: I don't wanna take advantage of a privilege I never really asked for.

NAPKIN: Close your eyes and visualize what you are capable of. This is not undeserved privilege. Your rights come from your own merit. Your hard work.

SKYLIGHT: It is true I've worked really hard. And I'm not even tired yet.

NAPKIN: Do you think any of the regular members have had the same focus and determination as you? Or that they have the capability of succeeding at it? Fuego with just one eye? Camitas who is in bed 24/7? Bambi and his sweet songs? Nube and her attention deficit disorder? And Sunset is not even a "citizen", whatever that means.

SKYLIGHT: And Rattlesnake?

NAPKIN: Rattlesnake is sharp, is smart, is organized, is one of the more visionary and special beings I've ever met. I want Rattlesnake. Me and you alone cannot do what we could achieve with Rattlesnake.

RATTLESNAKE: Napkin hi. Are you available to speak with Fuego and Camitas?

NAPKIN: We don't have time for that, no.

RATTLESNAKE: Ellas quieren hablarte de la posibilidad....

NAPKIN: Yo sé, they wanna be in love together, but no. No hay tiempo. They will hopefully fall in love again somewhere else, with someone else, maybe. Now now. Not today. We gotta finish these meetings, allow the last testimonies and close the country once and for all.

SKYLIGHT: Yep, we got three hours until midnight.

RATTLESNAKE: ¿Qué les digo?

NAPKIN: Let me open the intercom. Fuego, Camitas, can you hear me?

FUEGO: Te escucho pero no te veo.

NAPKIN: That's better probably. Look. Your question. I'm sorry. No.

SKYLIGHT: Camitas and you will each have to leave alone.

FUEGO: I guess there's no point in asking you why.

NAPKIN: Too late for that. We have to continue with the final testimonies.

SKYLIGHT: In ten minutes we begin.

SKYLIGHT, Rattlesnake and Napkin go dark. We see Fuego and Camitas.

FUEGO: El amor es una trampa que te hace desaparecer. Nunca he sido más que un niño miedoso.

CAMITAS: Después de cada insulto hay una herida pero también hay una esperanza.

FUEGO: El fuego que vive en nuestros cuerpos no se apagará.

CAMITAS: Nuestras vidas no son este sufrimiento.

FUEGO: La pequeña libertad del amor está en una cama que ya no puedo visitar.

CAMITAS: Capturada y sola en ella, transito dentro de mí, fuera de ti, una despedida.

10 CANCIÓN / SONG¹

NUBE: Hola Bambi, ¿qué estás haciendo?

BAMBI: I'm trying to finish this song. I'm a bit lost with the lyrics. How are you Nube?

NUBE: I'm sad because i'm going to hear the last song of Bambi

BAMBI: I don't know if my song is enough. You know, when I was in the street, I couldn't handle it. I got scared, I didn't want to get hurt. I didn't fight. I've been in my studio all this time. You got a bullet in your leg. Fuego lost an eye. I'm sorry that happened to you and I hope you get to do things to care for yourself.

NUBE: You feel guilty?

BAMBI: Yes, we are losing everything. What did I not do to make this happen?

NUBE: Tu haces tanto, Bambi. I find a home in your music. That's action.

BAMBI: I think I know what the lyrics will be. You are a good friend.

NUBE: Yo no tengo amigos, tengo amores, tú eres uno de mis muchos amores. Mi amor cantautor.

BAMBI

~ Mi hogar es mi familia es mi

~ Mi hogar es mi corazón es mi

~ Mi hogar viene conmigo

~ Mi hogar es en mi alma

~ Mi hogar se queda conmigo siempre

~ Mi hogar nunca me dejará

NUBE AND BAMBI

~ mi hogar no siempre me ama

~ y no siempre me encanta

~ pero me duele profundamente dejarlo atrás

~ cuando me mire al espejo siempre lo veré en mis ojos

~ Por que

~ Mi hogar es mi familia es mi

~ Mi hogar es mi corazón es mi

~ Mi hogar es mi

11 ÚLTIMAS PALABRAS / FINAL WORDS

NAPKIN: OK, Thank you Bambi. I will begin this time. Just so you know that I am also hurting. I've felt your pain and anger toward me during these hearings, and I understand. It's not easy to make decisions that bring no happiness. But this is my goodbye too. Lo voy a decir rápido y espero entiendan y ojalá nos volvamos a ver, maybe it's selfish but don't miss me, I still don't know where I'm going or the conditions of that place, but I have to believe it will be better than this country. It has to be. That was always my hope. Lamento no haber hecho todo lo que esperaban de mí, de verdad. I know I was always complaining about being tired, pero me hubiera encantado terminar todas nuestros proyectos. Now I think it's best if you just forget me, it'll be easier. As if I never existed.

SKYLIGHT: I feel like maybe I also owe you an explanation. Or I owe it to myself. I'm leaving a written document so that the things I can't bring with me will not be thrown in the trash, you all know how anxious garbage makes me. The things I leave behind might only be an excuse to say one last time: Me importas, Te quiero y quiero que te quedes con esto. I would like it if Camitas can take the teddy bear I won throwing darts at the beach fair. I would love it if all my notes and folders and calendars stay here as a record of everything we've gone through. Esta despedida es como un tutorial de Youtube en el que convierten un trozo de nada en un pedacito de todo. Sé que el Sol no es mío pero me gustaría que toda la gente que conozco, que no es mucha pero tampoco es tan poca, se acostara todos los días a tomar Sol. →

(SKYLIGHT): Please use sunscreen UV factor 50 or at least 30. My jar with coins I've been collecting since 2015 quiero que se lo quede Sunset. No creo que le alcance para nada, porque la plata nunca alcanza para nada, pero es lindo juntar cosas y pensar que algún día serán útiles. Quizás mañana todo importe un poco más y todo duela un poco más.

CAMITAS: Me quiero sacar el calcetín izquierdo y llenarlo con mis lágrimas congeladas para que esté pesado y pueda hacer una pelota y lanzarla por el balcón y que se reviente y estalle contra el asfalto húmedo del estacionamiento. Seguido voy a bajar por las escaleras para sentir mis pies descalzos, hasta llegar a la esquina donde una vez miré hacia el cielo y me dije que todo estaba bien. Quizá a Fuego le guste este libro colorido, si no, puede hacer lo que quiera con él. Ojalá que se arme una casita para refugiarse de este tormento militarizado. Quizá también le regale mis dibujos. Que haga un collage, que se haga un sombrero, que los quemé y que ardan en una barricada si quiere. No tengo nada. Este país no me dejó nada. Todo fue un préstamo de utilería barata que logre hacer parte de mi rutina. Ayer escribí una carta, no me interesa que se entienda, es una guía y un recordatorio para mi persona. Si quieren pueden hacer un origami con ella, o pueden doblarla en ocho partes y utilizarla para arreglar esa mesa coja. No me interesa que a mi guitarra la conviertan en trompeta, o que mis lápices sean aviones, o que mis pasos en este vacío se queden aquí para siempre, o que mis plantas... oh, mis plantas. Es lo único vivo que se asomaba en este lugar. Este país no me dejó nada, me lo quitó todo, hasta mis ganas de seguir luchando.

FUEGO: I know that I should be sad, but I can't. El alivio de que este país de mierda se termine, is bigger than the fear of not knowing what will happen. No tengo muchas cosas que importen, just books, son lo único que me ayudan a no volverme loca, Han sido mi mejor arma en este propio fin del mundo. Me fui no porque quisiera, me fui porque tuve que hacerlo. My biggest dream was change this country in something better, but i couldn't. I really tried, i'm so sorry. Querido desconocido, te daré el legado que no alcancé a entregar: don't make the same mistakes as our politicians. Rule for the people not for your pocket. Sé que para ti será difícil de entender, pero estás parado en las cenizas de lo que fue una nación, you're standing on the ashes of bombed bodies that only fought for a better country. My backpack is ready, I only have one change of clothes. I'm in a place where you can't speak unless someone else says so, where there are kisses when someone else says it, where there are tears for a person who doesn't see them.

NUBE: I say goodbye to the earth, a las hojas, al agua y al aire, me despido de los lugares en que amé y en que sufrí. Me despido de las veces que me sentí extranjera in my country, de las veces que me ahogué con la misma bandera que siempre resultó ajena. Debería tener miedo but I don't have it, es necesario acabar con todo para encontrar algo nuevo, la incertidumbre siempre será mejor que el conformismo. Me desprendo de todo, lo que alguna vez tuve y lo que alguna vez fuí. Dejo todas mis deudas!!!! Me llevo my skin with scars and stories, me llevo mi aliento, mi fuerza y coraje. I dream with a better place. Vamos a luchar, no sé cómo ni cuándo but let's fight.

SUNSET: Ya que todo esto va acabar. Que se pudra la sombra que cargamos para que no la llevemos donde caigamos. Que se pudra la egolatría que funda el comportamiento de la gente. Las cosas bonitas se las dejo a..Cosas bonitas como:...uf...esto está difícil. Cosas bonitas como el aguante. Cosas bonitas como sus canciones. Su honestidad. Montones y montones de poemas que espero nunca dejen de multiplicarse. Que ellas les rasguen la piel. Les den vueltas por el piso y restrieguen todas sus verdades en las caras para imaginar el mundo que habitamos y estar aquí sin estarlo. Espero que estas palabras las atesoren para que no se pudran junto a este territorio tan inmundito pero a la vez tan gracioso. Hagan lo que quieran con ellas.

BAMBI: Escúchame! Escucha esta canción, canta! caminemos como música portátil en nuestros colorinches alaridos. If this country steals my heartbeats I would like to take out a loan in the Bank of Souls, maybe I can borrow a couple more days for the song I didn't make yet. Please friends, take some of my records so that a part of me goes with you. The guitar goes to Nube, the ukulele to Sunset, the keyboard to Camitas—you can play from bed, the microphone to Fuego, obviously. What your eye can't see, your voice will scream loud. My big mirror is for Rattlesnake, we always used to dance in front of it before going out to the club. Napkin, you can take my lotions and perfumes, I know you like to look and smell good. For Skylight I have more than 50 markers of different colors to draw charts and write to-do lists. I want to share my strength, my passion, my voice, my intensity, my fears, my anger, my tears. I want to say I'm sorry for not doing more.

RATTLESNAKE: Quisiera dejar en claro que, lo primero, es que si quieren que me vaya, me voy y lo hago por mi mismo. Me camino fuera de aquí, con mis mismas piernas. Napkin, Skylight, I know you had promised me a better tomorrow, but under the circumstances I leave alone. Sunset, I know you wanted me to go with you, but I want to be fair to everybody else. Me voy solo. No es mi voluntad, pero lo haré así como se nos ha indicado. Sé que este éxodo no es por el bien mío ni de ninguno de mis compañeros aún cuando tratan de convencernos de lo contrario. Cuando empecé mi trabajo no lo hice con el fin de que se disolviera el territorio, al contrario, lo que queríamos era redistribuirlo, eso todos lo saben. Que nos digan que lo que había antes ya no existe más, y ahora, nos indican que tenemos 24 horas para irnos porque somos una especie en peligro de extinción en caso de quedarnos es una mentira. Dejo comprobantes de mis deudas médicas, de cuando estuve en el hospital. Como dejaron de manufacturar mis hormonas al cierre del laboratorio esta tarde, terminaré mi tratamiento hoy mismo, aunque sé que no puedo vivir sin ellas, ¿o fue un invento, mi necesidad de tomarlas? ¿o dependía mi vida de esto? ¿o me mantengo en un borde indefinido? ¿o me conformo con la crueldad al respecto? ¿o...

NAPKIN: If this is all you have to say Rattlesnake

SKYLIGHT: Yes, you should stop now.

RATTLESNAKE: Estoy a punto de terminar. Dejo los poemas que tenía pensado publicar a fines de este año, hablan de todas mis perversiones, las maneras torcidas de mi placer, que ya se sabe es mi área de interés e investigación, así que quizás le pudieran servir a alguien en el futuro. Quizás se puedan leer en voz alta algún día. →

(RATTLESNAKE): Quizás inspiran la libertad de un niño mariquita en alguna casa fascista, quizás a partir de mis poemas se vuelvan a organizar y se vuelvan a amar, así como amé yo. Eso sería.

SKYLIGHT: Bien. Gracias. Ahora podemos apagar pantalla

NAPKIN: Ok, apaguemos pantallas

NUBE: Oye, pero me iban a dejar a mí una gata, ¿se acuerdan?

SKYLIGHT: Ya no hay tiempo para seguir repartiendo

SUNSET: This is it?

FUEGO: desde aquí pasamos para siempre

SKYLIGHT: Permission for new testimonies will be sold for \$300 a minute.

CAMITAS: Evadir no pagar, otra forma de luchar. (se va)

BAMBI: Bailamos para tapar al país errado (se va)

NUBE: Los amo en lenguaje de señas. (se va)

SUNSET: gracias por compartir estos mensajes aún con la duda de si compartirlo valía la pena.

(se va)

RATTLESNAKE: Me caen lágrimas viendo esta imagen.

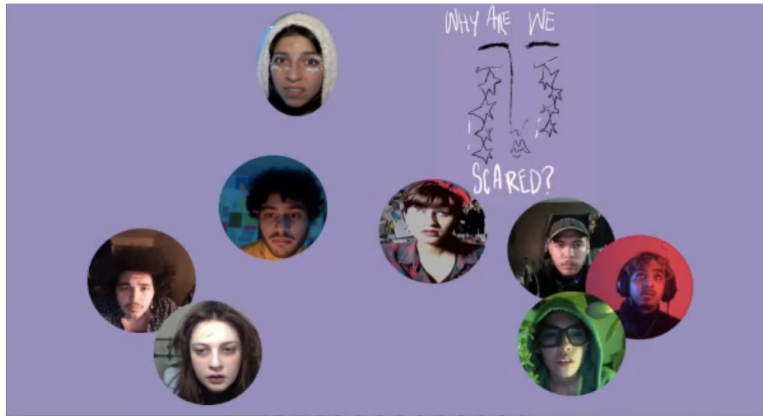
FUEGO: ¿Cual? (se va)

RATTLESNAKE: Los cuadrados desaparecen.

NAPKIN: Let's go Rattlesnake.

RATTLESNAKE: Not with you.

SKYLIGHT: Vamos Napkin



¿Por que estamos asustados?
Why are we scared?

Talking: Eclipse

Search

- amelia bande (me)
- Eclipse (Host)
- House Monitor (Co-host)
- 10 Vale Garcia
- Ahnaïl Rivrie

raise hand yes no go slower go faster more

Invite Unmute Me

Chat

I love you Isaac

From Jaime to Everyone: I love you Amada Li 6:03 PM

From Joshua Pink to Everyone: hola 6:04 PM

From Alonsx Pa to Everyone: Hi 6:04 PM

From karina quilfones to Everyone: grande tepens 6:14 PM

From Cata Barra to Everyone: te amo tepens <3 6:14 PM

To: Everyone

Type message here...

(se va)

(se va)

(se va)

(se va)

NAPKIN: Ok, vamos (se va junto con Skylight)

RATTLESNAKE: Que la luna cubra el sol, adiós. (se va)

(se va)

FIN

THE END

COLOPHON

What Happens: In the Grasses is a semi-annual publication series seeking works that specifically address theater's ability to transcend political and geographical limitations. Taking its title from Gertrude Stein's "In the Grass (In Spain)," this series investigates within and without boundaries of genre while focusing on works whose poesis involves the transformation of the social, often amidst collaboration. For more information visit whathappens.world

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For a PDF with subtitles of both languages that appear in the text, scan the QR code below:



::Buffalo, NY 2021

SUNSET: *I remember when I found out that there was such a thing as different countries. I didn't understand that I was not a legal citizen until I asked about the flag I saw on TV. I thought that where I was born and here were the same. I didn't know the world was divided. I realized I couldn't just go see my grandma whenever I wanted. She couldn't just decide to come see me. Knowing that there was a country and that I didn't belong in it...*