From a Poet to her Rumbero
        after La Media Vuelta/ Rumberos de Cuba

ojalá que te vaya   bonito   *ojalá*   #quetedenloquenopudedarte
#aunquepudedartetodo pero   i'm done   i'm jalta   i'm crowded
i'm saying   *te vas porque*   *quiero que te vayas*
i can't listen   en mis audífonos   porque me haces falta
my body wild y tú cool lake   i want it   siempre   vulnerable

estas frío   punto   me dejas mojada   nene
i'm a dying sky of eagles   i'm arrowed into it
i'm a mess of fever   i'm wicked i'm burnt
i'm so cansada de waiting   i'm waxing light
no i'm not thoroughbred   fuck them for asking
que me chingan   i'm diving straight down

to touch the underside of sea   i swindle myself first
i'm cutting you out now   pero entiéndeme
we both know if you call i'm there   it's survival   nene
you've got to be kidding me   *a la hora que yo quiera*
te detengo   through the dead sea y todo
survived girlhood y todo   salt burning my skin y todo

grey mirada turned ice y todo   i'm blessed with ancestor names
i'm protected by light   tú cantas y cantas y cantas
until i know all your harmony   but i won't beg you to see me
i replay el coro con mi boca   you say i am the pit
you say i am forgive   ness   you say the ocean
pero nene   *quiero que te vayas*   *por el mundo*   i promise

quiero que te besen   otros labios   you say devotion
you say suerte con tu love   you say its salt   unafraid
you flirt with my blood   y i want to slap
you think you'll fuck my canto   in Huitepec

you cry me down to ceremony   you tell the girl   coqueteando
because she wants what i want   that you don't want to kiss
Rumbero   you hold my baby   i let down in the temezcal
you say gracias over y   over y over inside the fire
i listen to gracias   porque now   or never   we were once
in San Juan   once tostones wet our mouths

y once we were in love   y once we made an ocean of parting
because we knew it would never   but we hoped
y once we died   y once there was batata y mouths
as gold as Atabex   y Rumbero   i'll tell you once more about my ex love
lo de mi ex novia— no te pongas así*:*   how i kissed her was like cake
toda mi vida se fue con ella until you   Rumbero   mala tuya pero mala mía

te juro me muero   *si tú te vas   Rumbero*
lights across the sky y todo   we will say it to all our beloveds
but which name will be our último?   i burn light   i sage corners
i slip my tongue   i future trip   i dig the silk kimono   i wear it at night
i'm fighting you inside my mind   i'm bad at missing
i see myself in my bed   i see myself in your bed

both fists   to your astral double   lap lit lakeside
all heated   el Rumbero in front of his fire
you leave me a little bit   in every song   you leave her a little bit
          in every song   Rumbero   mala tuya pero mala mía
y tus feelings   Estoy jalta de esto   y
estoy levantándome de mi cama   magicked by you

wicked swept   i'm taught   to wait
i'm taught   to let you miss   *¿se acabaron los ratos*
pero por qué se acabaron?   i'm in tongues
i miss your tongue   the way you first kiss
take my hand to your chest   like a slow dance
i'm pounding   anything but your song

like malt liquor down my throat
i'm all your ex novias's   i'm like none   of your ex novias
names rolled in one   y tú lo sabes

i'm through   i'm wet   i'm Rumba on the corner
in San juan   i'm skyping my curandero
i'm seeking an answer to the problem of

i can't get enough   *¿se acabaron los ratos pero*
por qué se acabaron*?*   Rumbero   my ex novia said
trouble was my middle name   i believed in her but
i couldn't believe in how   she gave me stacks of hundreds
ella me singó cada noche   so i'd sleep good

now i'll never take another's dime
i was her puta on a mattress   i was her wife   i was faithful   siempre
y still y still y still   Rumbero
she left me for another femme y still   i took her back y when i left last
                                                           i learned to quit
before   i finished loving   sky   rise alone on a rooftop y todo
i found you there below   i wanted to jump   instead i kingged to astral

my sleep   all fevered   y now   i watch myself like it's a movie
¿do you want this   like your double?   ¿verdad? ¿estoy enamorada de tu doble?
here   floor to ceiling   glass   sun soaks   you gift cherries y fresh gold
yerba buena y you poet me   when you truth like that
                                                    when you say it to María

y después Amalia   *Rumbero, si encuentras en ella*   *un amor que te comprenda*
y sientes que   *te quiere más que a nadie*

                                i'll take you on the lake   with my double

an echo curled to your chest
yo daré la media vuelta   when joyful is a leap of grace   *y me iré con el sol*

cuando muera la tarde

                                     i'll see her stay with one cherry
                                        seed in her mouth

i'll taste how it feels when she leaves

how the sky swells   y how she levitates
the sweet wickedness of a bedroom
that makes timeless

                              i'll wonder at how her mouth
                           harmonizes on its own