

## 100 WORDS AFTER THE FAMILY OF YOU

Lorna Dee Cervantes

**Grief** makes a family. Every death takes us further from ourselves, out where the dust forms into galaxies, matrices of trust—the threads we tuck under time, the taking time to tuck or cover. My time with you: an embroidered shawl, a magnifying glass, a glass of water. Too brief. So long. Old Friend. Amigo. del camino del sol. Critic to the end. Suavecito muy lindo. El sueño de mi, sígue. Criticando. Signifying. Clarifying. Refining. My life is half-empty without you—music without the chair, plate missing the meal, this family of you without you grieving songs of you.

*From Ciento: 100 100-Word Love Poems*