

Memorial for Chato/Brownie/Figueroa

(Every neighbor had a different name for him) by Kamala Platt

He was a fearless friend
 guarded his home-girl, Bonnie, from the cars in
 the street when she got hit
 Kept watch on my porch but barked only when
 necessary
 Saved a wayward hen—stepped in the way of an attacking dog,
 so I could grab the bird.
 I still remember his quizzical response
 when a passerby pulled a blade on him one day.
 He didn't bark, just sort of sidestepped
 away from the knife—utterly unfazed pacifist encountering
 a party pooper who didn't want to play.
 And that kind of de-escalation of bad-will
 will be sorely missed around here, these days.
 That spirit of pure friendly optimism
 protecting our community
 made me literally go to court for him last winter
 —stand up for our neighborhood dog,
 at the risk of \$1200 in fines and
 with the presence of kindness and intelligence, win against odds.
 After that we managed to neuter and microchip him.
 We did not find him a home off Martin St. though.



The City said we could not have a neighborhood dog,
 but we did,
 And if he'd lived a couple weeks longer into the stay-
 home, stay-safe era
 I don't know what we'd done 'cause
 he was not a socially distancing dog.
 He spread goodwill to all and often got fed for it.
 At the end, he'd gotten gordito
 because we were trying to keep him behind my gate,
 and he couldn't run and roam all day like he loved to do—
 he was fine with his new collar but would not take a leash.
 If you wanted him to do something he wasn't sure about,
 you had to produce food.
 Free spirit, Chatito. ¡Presente! Descanse en Paz.
 He was never my dog, but I love him.



"Memorial for Chato" opens the section in *No Season for Silence* an anthology of poems written during the first days of the Stay Home orders. It was used for the publisher's announcement of *No Season for Silence* edited by Milton Jordan, Kallisto Gaia Press, 2020.



Cover designed by award winning fiber artist Lucia LaVilla Havelin

Ode to Daisy

Our lives changed forever when we first found you
 Our hearts were touched by someone so special and
 unique
 You were a starving, thirsty, and abandoned little puppy
 All you wanted was to love and be loved
 You became the new member of our family
 How could we refuse when you were so lovable
 Eating insects and all sorts of bugs to survive
 Playing with rocks to entertain yourself
 Your brindle and white coat was so attractive
 Those piercing eyes could melt an iceberg
 You taught us to be parents again
 With your smartness and alertness
 Showering you with love and toys
 Spoiling you was our first priority



Sleeping in our bed to keep us company
 Roaming around the house all day was a treat
 We were blessed with your love and affection
 Playing with you filled our days with fun and laughter
 And suddenly, you were gone forever
 Leaving a big empty space in our hearts
 We still grieve your loss
 A knot in our throats, tears, and sniffles



Oh, how we miss you
 All we have left are those beautiful and unforgettable memories
 Eighteen months were not enough
 Our lives changed forever when we last said good-bye
 Our hearts were touched by someone so special and unique

—Gilberto Quezada