
POETRY | FALL 2018

Aphasia

By Jennifer Wolkin

a pha 'sia (ə' fɪ zɪ ə)

when you said, *the jar was soaking*
the bus

I swore I'd never say
another word in
vain-

your mouth moved
with the ease of speech,
but the waves of words

meaningless lexicon linked
together in
random refrain.

when you said, *the milk was about to*
shatter

my own brain bled for your
wilted words-

did you wonder
if they mattered?

when I looked you in the eyes
I saw your fear swell like a
broken bone-

but no cast is big enough for
three pounds
of flesh deserting you:

no/longer/home

Jennifer Wolkin is a health and neuro-psychologist, speaker, mental health advocate and mindfulness-meditation practitioner. She is currently pursuing an MFA in creative writing and literary translation at Queens College. Her poetry has been published/forthcoming in a number of literature journals. Her non-fiction work, translating and sharing the science of brain research and mindfulness, has been published in Thrive Global, The Huffington Post, Mindful.org, and PsychCentral among others; a compilation can be found on her blog BrainCurves.com. Wolkin is most passionate about writing at the intersection where the mind, body, brain and spirit meet, giving voice to those who have sometimes literally lost theirs by bearing witness to their pain (and resilience) through her writing.

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