

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	<i>ix</i>
Introduction to the Poems by Francisco X. Alarcón	<i>xiii</i>
Preparing the Tongue	<i>1</i>
I.	
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, i.	<i>5</i>
Sundays after Breakfast: A Lesson in Speech	<i>6</i>
Bluing the Linens	<i>7</i>
Las Lenguas	<i>8</i>
Summer	<i>9</i>
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, ii.	<i>11</i>
A Meal for the Tribe	<i>12</i>
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, iii.	<i>13</i>
Yellow Bird	<i>14</i>
Little Mexican Pot	<i>15</i>
Turnips	<i>16</i>
Babies under the House	<i>17</i>
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, iv.	<i>19</i>
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, v.	<i>20</i>
Roosters: Homecoming	<i>21</i>
Esperanza Tells Her Friends the Story of La Llorona	<i>22</i>
Ode to El Cabrito	<i>24</i>
Stray Cat	<i>25</i>

How I Put Myself through School	26
Morning Praise of Nightmares, one	27
Morning Praise of Nightmares, two	28

II.

Sundays after Breakfast: A Lesson in Cotton Picking	33
Put Attention	35
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, vi.	36
Breasts	37
Ode to My Boots	38
Ode to a Skein of Red Embroidery Thread	39
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, vii.	40
Wooden Box	41
Black Hat	42
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, viii.	44
Mr. G's Collection	45
Cocooning	47
Babies under the Skin	48
Pinedale, CA	49
Like Jesus	50
When I Made Eggs This Morning	51
Stones	52
My Mother Woke a Rooster	54
My Mother Asks to Be Cremated	55
My Mother Will Take a Lover	56
Ancient Algebra	57
One Man's Name: Colonization of the Poetic, ix.	58
The Alchemy of Mothering	59
Early Words for My Son	60
On Blinding	61
Birth Day	62
Notes	65