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## The Spanish Dancer's Siesta A Puerto Vallarta Sunset from Seat 24E, Aeromexico

Jennifer Arin

### The Spanish Dancer's Siesta

After the painting "Siesta" by Charles Nahl

*"The palm at the end of the mind, beyond the last thought, rises..."*  
—Wallace Stevens

My cat relaxes her body  
on the doorway's warm wood.  
We both recline afternoons.

I should be rested  
as the cool low sun,  
unworn as my *zapatos*,  
forlorn dance shoes.

Heat sweetens my neck,  
preens my legs. Emerald rests  
on my shoulder, seems  
to squawk, "Don't go, don't go!"

This hammock holds me  
back, indulges me in orange.  
Dense dance, trudging struggle  
of in-between.

Start with a step.  
My bare feet touch  
tiles, move me  
past cat and mandolin,  
past green shawl and  
parted curtain.

Through the gate:  
water awaits  
and palms.

Dancing at last my body  
lifts, my hands circle  
with intention,  
my palms partner those palms.

**A Puerto Vallarta Sunset from Seat 24E, Aeromexico**

The sun sifts past the last meridian.

In Mexico's orange heaven  
the moon appears, then night's bright garden.

Stories I still carry

*(Moon had finished his monthly  
meal of stars and he was full fed)*

*(A dragon changed into  
a singing star)*

soothe me sweetly beyond engines'  
discordant plot.

Moon legend comes from *Aztec* by Gary Jennings;  
Dragon refers to *The Iron Giant* by Ted Hughes.