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Mumbling of Prayers

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# MUMBLING OF PRAYERS

CRISTINA ROSE SMITH

When I first saw you,  
with sharpened eyes,

Took in the coarse fabric  
    starry sky,  
    mantle,  
    and crescent moon.

Your shrine.

I breathed in quick to catch your rose scent  
And got the smell of the food vendors'  
maiz and cacahuates.

Holding the pink plastic rosary of my abuela in my hand;  
The priest had showered us with holy water.

I sought your gaze.  
Mouth ajar;  
Breath;  
Heartbeat;  
and

*whispers of the penitents,  
cameras clicking,  
shoes,  
mumbling of prayers.*

