

ROBERTA IANNAMICO

**PATH
ZEBRAS
BIRTHDAY
EVERY TIME I LEAVE
AFTER THE BIRTH
ROAD**

TRANSLATED BY ALEXIS ALMEIDA

PATH

Along her path
riding a cow
the chamomile flowers
looked like tiny stars
small precious things
put there to adorn
such a slow journey.

ZEBRAS

Like straight out of a tv show
black and white
the zebras are
preparing themselves
for a pajama party
their nature makes them entirely exempt
we all know
that a zebra behind bars
is a redundancy
so they do as they please
they go to the edge
they throw themselves from ravines and land on their feet
they do bad things without caring who sees
they attack ferociously
afterwards they toast
with the cups of their hooves
there is no difference between a crazy zebra
and a sane zebra and a zebra zebra
they all cross the water scandalously
they sunbathe
they don't understand tameness
or the side-eye

BIRTHDAY

I close my eyes to put out the candles
don't rush me with my wishes
there have to be three
and I don't want to waste
this opportunity
the air is all inside the balloons
I'm afraid
of blowing softly
it returns
the birthday song
with a few variations
your birthday lasts a short while
a cake that looks like a ship
a wedding dress
a plum
is an offering
to sacrifice immediately
I would have preferred to spend my whole birthday
in the light of the birthday candles
to make sure the air
doesn't extinguish them
to make wishes
many more than three
and have them start to come true
in the middle of the party
in the light of the pink candles

EVERY TIME I LEAVE

A wall
just in front
of the door of my house
says I love you
every time I leave
I read it
diagonally
it is
the corner of the body shop
with the mechanic
always
in the middle of the gate
the top part of the wall
has shards
of broken bottles
so the cats
can't make a home between the grates
it looks like a palace

AFTER THE BIRTH

I debut a lavender nightgown
the same lily silk
on one side my skin
hangs above the puffy flesh
on the other side the mirror
in the bathroom
in the hospital

ROAD

We stopped along the road
and my mom and I
ran to take a piss
we went down
to the tunnel
under the road
we ducked down
it made us laugh to hear the cars
just above us
with our butts out in the open
and the wind
blew against me
and I wet myself
we laughed
we laughed