

Jennifer H. Fortin

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Brooklyn, NY 11215

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 Congregation Etz Chaim Of Flatbush
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 748 Ocean Pkwy 437-0050
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 1424 49 438-9541

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

Six Poems: One for Each Year

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

Six Poems: One for Each Year

Jennifer H. Fortin

For Nate, & From

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

Hey, Nicole C., from Apartment 4.

You never came down for drinks with your freelance boyfriend
Cliff K. after I offered three times in the hallway. Now

you are returning home with your rescued dog
Snow who you muzzle when she wants to walk.

Do you think Snow is ever confused when you say No?
Isn't it too late, Nicole? I guess it's only 10:30.

I am crying really hard because after
weeks apart I just met up with S. at our favorite bar.

You remember, the one I lived with years before
you & Cliff were here. How can you guys leave

your mail sitting for days on the table in the hallway?
There are things in there just for you—that is exciting!

Nicole, I think you are from Georgia. Can you believe
you, Cliff & I are all writers (he is, too)? We should convene

& use the best words. I am crying really hard
because he has left. Just like that. I guess not

just like that, but just like *what?* I was hoping as we
both approached the gate you'd ask me what was wrong.

Of course you would invite me up
& I could tell you enough to make us both feel

like human beings, then come back down.
Maybe you would make hot chocolate?

You pulled Snow aside & said
Go ahead. I unlocked the door, let myself in.

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

Hey, Nicole C., from Apartment 4.

Have you seen your new neighbor naked
to the knees in that tall window? From that point down
barricaded by brownstone, &, internally—wall. Some think no one
can see, or would want to. I called the landlady there recently
to ask if any mail didn't quite make it here, she said *no*,
then *Well, junk, I threw it away*. Nicole, in determining
importance, especially if you don't even look,
I can't ask for help. I like to know who has my name
on his list, even if it is massive. For the sake of energy,
I have been known to make calls with the aim of removal.
Some people make my lists, they have no idea. Once, toward
the end, you sat on the stoop looking up the street for a car.
You had asked how I was doing, if I was ready for the move.
I gave you a real answer, the disappointment. Even though our hair
was not alike, is not alike, in texture—our first line of defense—
we both felt the wind in our eyelashes.
Forget the hair, empty Union Street was so windy.
Forget each hair, one by one, a lesson in the messing up-of.
I wanted to keep talking while inside arranging each
object to its fullest. The place would appear hodgepodge, but
with the objects making themselves bigger, the wind would be
our recourse. A natural motion of catching one's own, for which alone
we are responsible. If you are to abstract the stones from a field
to make it arable, what is the most efficient way. I think deference
to the center, carry them to the center. You, Nicole, kept
looking up the street for that car. For the person coming just for you—
that would be exciting! Your expression was sympathetic
or whatpleaseyou, but in the vacation moment, you had more
important occurrences than our lashes, my arrangement.
There was this portable lamp, cord draped over your shoulder
like a purse strap—who were you going to give the possible
illumination, heavenly pale eye belonging nowhere.
Before I left, you took a picture of me using your cell,
an image related to concealment in the basic unit within
a larger organization. Did you think we should interact
on a cellular level? Nicole, look how quiet it is here
in these small rooms now.

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

I don't want revenge, Nicole C., from Apartment 4.

Not even for when you passed me by with
a neighborly nod. You passed as my parents,
who had come to help with the move, & I
took boxes & miscellany down the front steps
to the curb with signs we made up, Free.
As though they enjoyed sudden
exemption from interference.

Nicole, I don't have
to tell you how exciting that is!

My parents helped me up & down,
things disappeared in no time. We wrapped in news-
paper what came with me. In the space above,
Nicole, you were living!, you did not have to
wrap your property with parents you had exhausted.
I don't want revenge on anyone. Hatred is no shark in
my shoulders, constant swimming or death. Have you ever
heard sharks have to keep swimming, for division from water
of oxygen, or they die? Of which I strongly approve, this division.
The most evolved one positions himself in a sufficient current,
lets the water continue around him. My Day
of the Dead souvenir AMOR ETERNO box opens
to a skeletal bride & her groom, forever holding hands
in the dark until acted upon. The division instruction,
Nicole, is that sometimes people aren't sure
what they want to do, but they are sure
how they want it done.

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

Nicole C., from Apartment 4,

have you changed jobs, or do you remain
comfortable stating the degree to which
intelligence is idiopathic. O, to present
periodically the unfamiliar as blue descends.
The sequence of perception matters, Nicole.
You lived above me & thus shared
information, such as how we translate hours
into savings. Nicole, does any man among your
circulation understand that you must comply to be
announced as enemies. I never entered into
anything of the kind. I used to
know the number of speeches necessary
to the blocking out of body parts in exchange
for the personal. The one I give endlessly, that speech,
compels commitment & the hearing out of.
Now I will divulge to you, Nicole, what the wise
ones divulged to me. I used to know the way
to leniency. Whether it was better to be the indirect
cause of an exercise, making us all smarter,
or to be candidly involved in the exercise.
Nicole, have you been taking care of Cliff K.
The last I saw, his purple eye had been influenced
by a bike messenger, stitched against light
& nerve damage. Is it worse to ask what happened
or pretend not to notice, which is impossible. As in,
with your new monocular vision, you growing
pet rabbit, you show horse, is it all worth it,
seeing two things at once as she takes pains over
you. Reconciliation but shallow, summer's baby
pool the new twin who goes everywhere together
with your defaced eye, the sound one
sidelined. I am trying to delegate more so I can
stay on schedule with the things that matter most.
I would be grateful if you'd rejoice as we throw
bricks at the sky. We do this because it won't hurt,
because the sky is our holiest alias & still permits us
by sheer passivity the throwing.

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

Nicole C., my friend was
over after S. left for good.
We sat across the street on
the curb looking into
the windows I would leave
soon. We waited for something
that, for all we knew, would come
from that direction.

Nicole C. (Apartment 4)

My new roommate, Nicole C., isn't my beloved.

Meaning I tell her less
& more both. We arrange to be
pleasurable in our schedules,
to trade off the stocking
of supplies. Cryptic as health
insurance, we do this, & with those same
gestures we release foreign matter.
They have a way of morally purifying
us, these zillion social acts of grooming.
Nicole, she asks me about
specific events, how the weekend's
wedding was, & it knots my powers
more than any wary accompaniment
around the crater. Compare opening,
compare mouth or shape without sound,
or fury's mother. Compare depression,
compare the magic blushing inside every
single machine. The wedding was beautiful.
Probably he won't leave her,
despite the amazon sorrow we all buy
into at some stage, o warrior volume.
Tropical superlative grief, Nicole.
Remember that strength
outgrew the stark & strange.
Remember that some lovers must feel
they're constantly patted down
in starry humidity with woolen mitts.
Pick a day in the future, he probably won't
say after some years, & I'll commute to visit you.
The hotel bed anticipated the obvious

king in me, an American king besides.
Immediately you know I was born
with rugged attention. You should meet
my roommate, Nicole, & my friends who are
contractually united. The best
man revealed to everyone
that everyone hoped to find

himself someone like the bride.

Is that fascinating & terrible
crater full of the anatomy we rejected
for efficient drawing of our bowstrings.

The horse whose hair was pulled
was wondering, I think.

Is the animal now a kind of proxy family
member, violin brother. He sympathizes with
the arches, falling more, more, of
our experienced feet. When the program
wakened in us the kiss of peace, I was
very ready but majestically withheld mine.

If the old covenant proves
insufficient, grace nevertheless
bestows undeserved favor. It's impossible
for relics to embarrass if they are
true relics. Countable days led
to the wedding day, just like other
countable days led to other days.

Instinctually, when I moved
out of that residence, Nicole, it was
on Earth the slowest gleam
between two nights.

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first edition

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* a dusi/e-chap
www.dusie.org



D U S I E

Mini Market		528 Clarkson Av	773-2795	Sup
2 Flatbush Av	434-6549	Sanchez Miguel 708 A Fulton . .	855-5876	Sup
Food Corp 570 Albany Av . .	773-2530	Sand's Point Market Corp		
Grocery Store		8401 15 Av	232-7152	Sup
3 Utica Av	385-6270	San Rafael Grocery 708 Fulton . .	834-9896	Sup
Grocery Store		Santa Clara Grocery		
4 Nostrand Av	859-4281	460 Irving Av	418-6261	Sup
Super Market Inc		7-Eleven Food Store		
5 E 13	252-3459	2247 Utica Av	692-0099	Sup
Grocery & Deli		7-Eleven Food Stores		
6 7 Av	492-2309	1970 Ralph Av	531-0169	Sus
Grocery Inc 90 Hnry . .	624-0074	7-Eleven Food Stores		
Food Center		3342 Nostrand Av	648-9021	Sut
Ralph Av	209-1988	786 Flatbush Av Food Corp		Sw
Food Corp		786 Flatbush Av	462-5890	Sw
Clinton	852-8470	Seven & Seven Grocery Inc		
Mini Mart Inc		6910 8 Av	491-1633	T &
Remsen Av	763-5969	7 Star Deli Grocery		
Deli Grocery		1322 Newkirk Av	434-8919	T-Fo
Bushwick Av	573-2447	7918 Meat Corp 7918 3 Av . . .	745-0775	Taha
Grocery Store		Severo Stop One Grocery		Taiji
Marcy Av	384-5035	1804 Church Av	856-2709	1
Deli Grocery		Shaba Grocery Inc		Taj C
Liberty Av	922-7154	2387 Stillwell Av	266-9099	Tapp
Food Market		Shabuj Grocery Inc		Tast
Liberty Av	348-7030	423 Cortelyou Rd	854-2752	2
Grocery 104 Moore . . .	384-3104	Shahbain Grocery		Tava
Boulevard Grocery & Deli		3120 Coney Island Av	891-6370	Tejed
Ridge Blvd	748-6661	Shaigan Food Supermarket		Tejed
Ice USA 117 50 . . .	347 350-5026	5401 7 Av	853-4465	Tel-A
Grocery Store		Shan Market 2620 Cropsey Av . .	265-4082	5
Manhtn Av	389-5466	Shapla Grocery		The I
Grocery Store		486 Mcdonald Av	972-1326	M
Boyt	875-1546	Shelika Grocery 849 Marcy Av . .	398-2682	3:
1659 Franklin Av	783-6773	Sherpa Grocery Inc		The I
Grocery		1510 Cortelyou Rd	462-8735	10
Rockaway Av	345-1401	Shina Inc 6523 20 Av	837-3595	The F
99 Cent Deli & Grocery		Shin's Grocery		38
Rockaway Av	922-9700	4510 Fort Hamilton Pkwy . . .	436-9129	Think
Felix 4110 4 Av	832-5965	Shop Food		17
Grocery 127 Grand . .	599-0393	460 Mother Goston Blvd . . .	495-9519	359 I
Grocery Store		Shop Mart 1192 Gates Av	452-8251	35
10 Donald Av	436-0115	Shop N Save 4502 16 Av	437-6566	301 S
Grocery Store		Shop Smart 3334 Fulton	277-9091	333 J
1150 Av	455-2336	Shop Smart 2640 Nostrand Av . .	377-4166	33
636 Rogers Av	940-3926	Shop Smart Food Market		323 S
12 Avenue Food Mart		2552 Linden Blvd	257-3707	32
13 Rogers Av	778-0299	Shop Smart Kosher Supermarket		Three
14 Grand 630 Liberty Av . .	348-0259	2640 Nostrand Av	377-5428	50
Grocery Corp 820 5 Av . .	965-8555	Shop Smart Supermarket		Tiffan
Grocery Corp		8123 B Flatlands Av	531-1930	83
15 Becker	456-9592	Shoppers Variety Food Center Inc		Tineo
Grocery		1168 40	853-7447	80
16 Marcus Garvey Blvd . . .	919-6408	Shorty's Grocery Store		Tompl
17 Grocery 4423 14 Av . .	854-4005	385 Tompkins Av	919-1221	33
18 Mount Candy & Newstand Inc		Showtime Grocery 6701 13 Av . .	236-3888	Tonv's

