



Analfabeto / An Alphabet

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The American woman on the beach is barbudo, heavily bearded on her legs. When the children whisper bigote, mustache, she pretends not to understand, but stiff shoulders. On the plaza a girl asks, You are a fabiana? but she doesn't know fabiana. You are like my friend, she says. If the friend's husband finds out, finger slices neck, but on the plaza they are on laps. A hand reaches up and takes a breast. Another reaches down between thighs. Mamão is papaya. Mamãe is mommy. Mamar is to suck or milk.

Fabio is from Rio and tells me I must not go alone to Caruaru. Having found me at the train station, he taps my shoulder. Reclining in our reclining chairs he asks if I am sad. No, I just like watching Brazil out the window. You have beautiful eyes. You have a boyfriend? No, I am a lesbian. I not can kiss you then? No, you not can kiss me. In Brazil it is not good to be like you, but one day your people will have their day of glory.

The river and the bottom third of riverstilts are green-black  
Thick layer of rainbow. On the bridge  
blue crabs in a pile  
In a thought, little wooden baubles  
clink, weaving the net for repair  
A turn-of-the-century building under  
construction. Soon, a hotel -- fans, strolling  
An ad for Frevo Cola hangs the length of the building  
I use it facing North

Capibaribe River

dixie cups  
condoms  
#2 pencils  
a phone card floating  
the new museums created a posh sensibility but with prostitutes

Analfabeto

Illiterate

affection or

disease

Easter lily

I have to set my watch.

They went up the street. Dawn.

Let me light a match. target,

aim or white: swallow

We have no firearms.

to long for, an appetite

Let's go out in the open air.

We're going to clip his wings.

Everything's fine. Blue

This noise is heavily bearded. Children, that's too much blessing.  
A whale or a butterfly. Life is a beach.

Beautiful cake, let me bless you, stroke your short while, your  
heavy sound.

Heavily, the bell.  
Badalada badalada badalada

or

Você é linda. Here is my telephone. I work at the restaurant on  
this picture preparing juices. You would like a cookie? You would  
like a cigarette? You will wait here. I will wash my sunglasses in  
the ocean. I don't live far. You will come to my room?

This is the month of the bus stop.  
Concave, efficient.  
Periphery sharpening like salt  
but always. Ears scour what's behind. Slow and step aside whe  
footsteps or rustling.

:Fuchsia lipstick. Big face.  
:Black?  
:No, tall. Very white.  
:Not Black?  
:This close, only lips. A five finger grip. A  
transvestite maybe.

A dog with eleven udders. I remember. A boy with spots of fur  
arms asks Do I have many friends. The Frenchwoman says,  
"We eat now. I'm angry." Soap gently and look away. The mos  
make a funnel above.

assets, goods or belongings  
result or  
consequence; The words had a bad effect,  
axle or axis  
They're going to build  
a new school. She

She doesn't know anything. Elasticity  
Who headed the revolution?  
pledge      pawning      obligation  
joiner (masculine)  
penetrate or soak.  
Send me a dozen.      delivery  
or surrender  
They did it between  
the two of them. While  
While we studied they wrote letters  
ingenuity, wit

engenho

sugar mill

The white chairs and the constellations are stacked. Tomorrow  
Mars will be the biggest it has been in 5,000 years. He asks if she  
reminds the music. On TV, the drug dealers are taken away in a  
van, twelve dead. Gilberto Gil and Lula stand behind a bouquet of  
microphones. Lula is Pernambucano.

fura

fury or fit  
of madness (feminine)

They make good bread here.

hurricane (masculine)

To frank (letters)

grant passage

open, to clear

away (obstacles)

fica

Fica com o troco.

stay

Keep the change.

**Silent consonants are worth keeping because of history  
and continental kinship.**

**H**



Thank you for your wildcat dare. Yes, I have sheep, an ounce of wave, a flap of a book. I have an oyster. Yesterday you were shoulder, attention, declining sun. Thank you for your kindness.

I smell feminine glimpse, a milky egg. Show me to bone eight. It is difficult to fall or Autumn, offering gold. Yesterday bore dew. É difícil orientar-se nesta cidade.

fada

fairy (feminine)

fado

fate or destiny (masculine)

We must excuse his faults.

need or lack, absence, fault or

defect, mistake

The ship leaks.

Speak more slowly.

You are

the happiest day of my life.

wild beast, play hooky, stay

May I remain gratefully yours?

You may mob or crowd, heathen or pagan.

Grenade remains gratefully yours.  
Os meninos gastan tudo em pouco tempo.

We need bud or shoot. We don't need an umbrella, we need stew.  
Indifference marked the car.

The desk, which did not smell like oranges, was made from orange crates, 1908, Kansas City. The family Bible had a family tree on the first page. It was heavy and black, tall. I was afraid. An aunt's hair burned. Vertical swirl. Siblings on the edge of a boat.

At the end of Rua de São Bento is the Colegio Santa Gertrudes, the highest point in Olinda. It was home to Jews Gonçalo Dias, tailor; Luís Antunes, chemist, married to Maria Alvarez; Rui Gomes, goldsmith, father of Luís Antunes; and Maria de Faria, married to Francisco Cordeiro, who lived on his farm.

Later, a lock was installed.

## Construction Materials

cardboard  
black plastic  
tin

newspaper  
floral print  
metal

tarp  
thatch  
bags

jagged bottle halves against the pigeons

## N

This is quite natural.

ship or mist

To be born, to bed, rise

(sun) To originate.

No, neither fish nor fowl.

Our sister. Our town.

nape of the neck

daffodil or narcissist

daughter-in-law or water-wheel

novelty, news (item), crop

(of fruit), strange

incident, mishap

to nourish or feed, to cherish

(hopes etc.)

Be my student. You will triple the darkness. They all shiver  
translating it. They all say nap, portion, ankle. Do you blacken  
tune and air? There's no way to dishonest shiver. I know  
darkness.

tiger.  
tuberculosis.

Illiterate disease, we'll have to link up the street together.

I have an appetite for going up the dawn. Clip my longing.

Let me land in the open air. A swallow, Easter lily.

They corked his Everything's fine. The guards aimed with firearm

Her friendship was on sale. I had to set my watch.

The orange tree was taken by force. A feminine handwriting. It won't  
free this translation. Smooth or even. Lavadeira: washing machine or  
washerwoman. The washerwoman is milked.

She overcharged me, requiring that I bring blue powder soap,  
bar soap and sanitary water. I complied because she was a witch.

Sit next to me, blacklist flatterer. Slow my lion.



