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What I Don't Know

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What I Don't Know

Rosa Elena Mercado

There's an infinite number of things I don't know.
I don't know how to cook.
I don't know how to drive stick shift.
I don't know how not to procrastinate.
I don't know any college student who doesn't procrastinate.
I don't know how to put things back together once they've been broken.

I don't know how someone
can break promises they swore to keep,
severing ties made, leaving behind
fragmented pieces of memories
and vows of never ending laughter and devotion.

I don't know how someone
could have the ability to shatter a soul,
to push and pull and disfigure
another to the point where
they no longer recognize themselves.

I don't know how he could see my body
lying there compliant like a doll
whose purpose has been expended.

I don't know how he could see me naked
and broken, shaking with fear
and continue to insist that this is love.