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The Case of Charity Lamb (2017)

Arts and Humanities in Action

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## Fingerless

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Preface: the sun, moon, and eclipse

We only immerse the tips of our fingers  
In caution  
Or in fear of being completely open  
Much in the same way people here hold open arms to the sun  
While I am still nursing sunburns  
From days where I too thought sunlight was fleeting  
You see  
I compete with the seasons to see who can move forward faster  
I see sun and I see anew,  
Light may travel fast but darkness is always there first

In the same sense that  
I worry people will notice the tear in my dress  
Or the slight smell of smoke  
Attached to my bag  
From all the smoke signals i gave  
That turned to ash  
They might ask about all the books on my shelves  
That I have taped shut  
Stories I'd rather not tell  
Because even the moon has a dark side we cannot see

Which is why people are entitled to an overlap  
Eclipses, although intriguing and intense,  
Are short-lived and a decent reminder  
Every moment we aren't living, we are leaving behind  
The shadows define our every footsteps  
Heighten even  
But in totality we see the collision  
Only in complete darkness does fear look the same as acceptance

All is well  
So long as light returns

Gretel Valdes, "Fingerless"