

# MANDORLA

NUEVA ESCRITURA DE LAS AMÉRICAS • NEW WRITING FROM THE AMERICAS

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DEBORAH PAREDEZ

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POEMS FROM "BLUE AND FULL OF STARS, 1944"

*"Suicide Ends Career of Lupe Velez, Hollywood's Mexican Spitfire"*  
13 December 1944

I. *BEULAH KINDER, PERSONAL SECRETARY AND CONFIDANTE*

I found her  
at first to be a broken

thermostat, her tempers  
peaked and plummeting

as a marksman's clay disc  
released and shattered.

But over the years  
I came to know her

stillness, black ice under  
snow, known only after

it's too late to do anything  
but lose your footing

as when I found her  
that morning wrapped

in white silk, the crushed  
pillows crowning her

head like ether, empty  
slippers overturned.