

DISARMED WARRIORS

Narratives with Youth Ex-Combatants in Colombia

Proefschrift

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For Miguel,
in the hope that, by reading these pages,
his appreciation and respect
for those who are different will grow

Tristes guerras
si no es amor la empresa,
tristes, tristes.

Tristes armas,
si no son las palabras,
tristes, tristes.

Tristes hombres,
si no mueren de amores,
tristes, tristes.

Miguel Hernández

Sad wars
If love is not the aim
sad, sad.

Sad weapons
it they are not words,
sad, sad.

Sad men
if they do not die for love
sad, sad.

Miguel Hernández
(Trans. Ted Genoways)

But I'm not from there;
I come from deep in the jungle.
Adriana

I was born of the earth and air,
not of any person.
Daniela

I had to sleep there.
I slept well.
That's how I grew up.
Mariana

Keep an eye on
the little thread of life
that was barely hanging on.
Laura

Why do we
who are human beings
kill other human beings?
Mariana

And I ran out of there and didn't care
about tigers or snakes
or worms, or bombs, or anything.
Daniela

I don't tell anyone
who I am.
Cielo

The little plant
has only just been born.
Daniela

I have only just begun
to make a life for myself.
Mariana

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