

Marlon Hacla

THE ESCAPE

translated from the Filipino by Kristine Ong Muslim

Everything I had recounted was no longer happening. Go ahead and escape, but take the map of Santa Teresita, know what lies ahead of you. I do not have any money, and I do not know why this is the case, so forgive me and tell me if you love me. If you do not know how to make a boat, then create water. What did they say when they arrested you in the garden? Did you admit to the loneliness and menace ditched at the outskirts of town? About witnessing how an object you cannot name gets put away in a jar? How are you feeling, really? Tomorrow, I will go with you if you are still alive. I will kiss you if your face is still intact.