

Torn Promises: A Poem for Many Voices

"As a result of the zero-tolerance policy, the government separated more than 2000 children from their parents at the border . . ." American Bar Assoc.

[¿Qué son las promesas?]

[promises] [torn] [when a child] [small child]

[is ripped away] [¡Ripped!]

[away] [¡Tomás!] [torn] [from a mother's warm embrace] [away . . .]

[¡Mamá!]

[ripped from many mothers] [many children] [many] [¡Elena!]

[ripped away] [from a sobbing father] [away . . .] [torn from desperate fathers]

[¡Papá!]

[hollow promises told] [and torn] [made into lies] [¡Lies!]

[the long road] [and the promise]

[estará bien] [it will be fine] [estará bien] [it will be fine]

[when we get there] [the lie chafes] [it is dust clogging the throat]

[¡Mamá!] [¡Papá!]

[torn] [torn] [tom] [torn] [¡Tomás!] [¡Elena!] [torn] [torn] [tom] [torn]

[and the long [long]] silence]

[after . . .]

[[[

]]]