

# Summer Storm

Silvia Curbelo

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- Born in Matanzas, Cuba, poet Silvia Curbelo emigrated to the United States with her parents as a child.
- Her poems couple the personal with the elemental, overlaying collective and individual spaces.

# Three view points

- The narrator
- The woman
- The man/customer

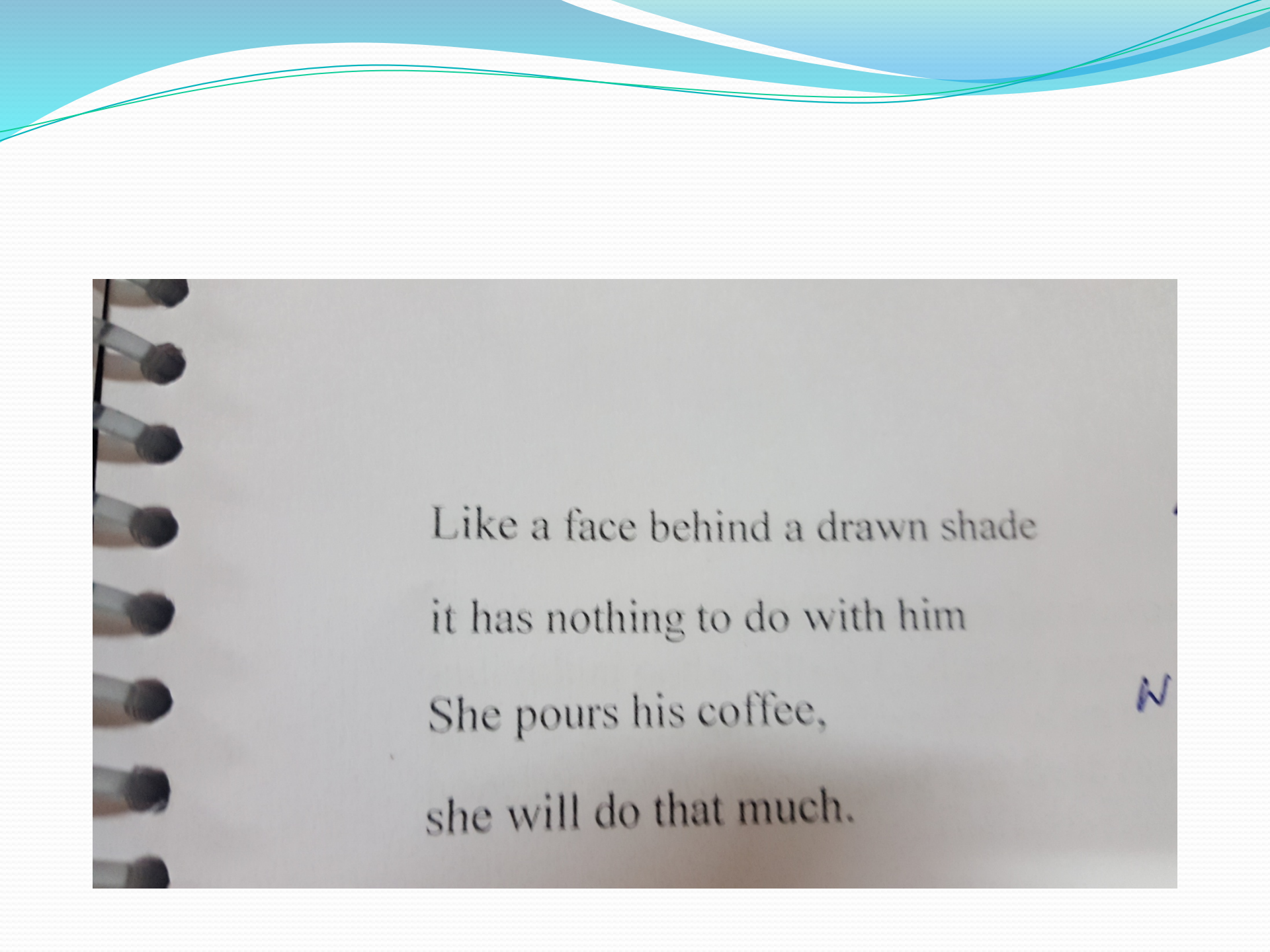
# Setting

- The setting of the poem appears to be a coffee bar
- With a waitress and a customer

The waitress props open her book  
against the sugar bowl  
but doesn't read it  
She hums along with the hard rock station,  
a song about a brittle love  
and a piece of someone's heart.

# Stanza 1

- The waitress props open her book but does not read from it. Her mind is elsewhere, perhaps in a private space of her own.
- She hums along with the hard-rock station, The song is about love that is easily breakable, brittle and somebody's broken heart.
- Is the woman reminiscing her broken love affair?



Like a face behind a drawn shade  
it has nothing to do with him  
She pours his coffee,  
she will do that much.

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# Stanza 2

- The customer on his part is in his own world
- In this case her recall has nothing to do with the customer.
- For she pours out coffee
- That all comes to an end.
- She is just doing her job
- She is in her own space and the customer in his own.



He stares at his hands,  
the coffee cup, the door,  
saying nothing. She is beautiful.

She

When she shakes out her hair  
he thinks of water spilling out  
or the last moonlight shaking itself  
out of the trees.

# Stanza 3

- He looks at his hands, the coffee cup, and the door-all in deep silence.
- He observes the waitress, her beauty and the image he conjures up when she shakes her hair. It is a comparison to the nature – water being sprinkled about from her hair and the moonlight disappearing itself behind the trees.

Could that be thunder  
in the distance  
or just the music rattling  
in his ears? Anyway  
he's stopped listening,  
even to the radio.

*Inten*

*a song ab*

# Stanza 4

- From now on there seems to be a shift from the personal to the elemental (nature)
- We slowly enter into the man's world.
- there are things that are real and things that are imagined-thunder and rattling music.
- The man moves into his own space-world of his own.

Even the weather station  
means nothing to him now.

pred:

He knows to sit still  
and wait for thunder.

He's got time on his hands.

A good rain is worth a hundred years.



# Stanza 5

- He is very patient and ready to wait for the rain to follow the thunder.
- A good rain in middle of the summer is something to long for.
- Rain to be suggestive of regeneration, rebirth and hope.
- A storm (accompanied by a rain is a great relief)

She stares out the plate glass windows.

Pinpoints of light

from the next town are blinking on.

He'll look at her and then,

but not all of her,

a sleeve, a breast,

a glimpse of hair,

long like the longest night.

# Stanza 6

- She stares....blinking on..could be a journey into the past.
- An attempt or hidden hope to return to her homeland Cuba.
- While she is in her own space he too lives in his own world.





# Themes

- This could also be seen as a desire of the human spirit that at times looks for freedom, individuality and identity
- Love can have its own manifestations. It could be love for oneself (private space) or it could be for another.
- It could be for independence (solitude)

# The elements

- Elements refer to the nature and the seasons
- Summer storm brings in hope and brilliance
- Rain could symbolize hope, rebirth, revival and regeneration.
- Individual spaces (both mental and physical) matter so much to give meaning to life. Each individual is an island as well as continent