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## Santa Lucia, Maracaibo, 29 de diciembre

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# Santa Lucia, Maracaibo

## 29 de diciembre

Lorna Van Gilst

Spill out through your doors *grande*  
into the sweet cool of night—  
Draw up a kitchen chair  
here on the uneven ledge  
for a two-woman chat,  
the baby bouncing on your cotton knee.  
Catch the night air  
*fresco* on your damp skin—  
*fresco* through your wide sleeves—  
Glance at your *ninos* running in a little pack  
through the dry red dust.  
Watch the two maiden-shadows next door  
brushing, brushing, brushing  
with deft strokes in the twilight,  
their gate gleaming freshly golden in the beam of headlights—  
for *Ano Nueveo*—  
A thousand twinkling lights, outlining  
each door,  
each window,  
each portico—  
connecting dot to dot, *casa* to *casa*, soul to soul.