

Emari DiGiorgio

## 1434 Dead

A candle for every casualty in Gaza  
*Hamdan* tapers tea lights *Ali* glass votives  
on the floor of my living room *Reziq*  
where I entertain silence *Mustafa* eat dinner  
read the paper *Fadia* more candles in the kitchen  
on the counter *Hisham* the stained linoleum  
by the cat's bowls *Ehab* down the hall  
in the bathroom the tub *Allam* both bedrooms  
*Abdul* each windowsill *Salim* bookcase bureau  
*Yasmin* how can I live in this house any more  
*Farouq* before the curtains catch *Mahmoud* the books  
burn *Hussam* the bedskirt flirts with the lit wicks  
at its hem *Jaber* how can I live on this quiet block  
*Sa'ad* trash on Tuesdays *Mohammed* meals-on-wheels  
for the woman across the street *Sharaf* today just past  
noon *Hakim* the truck stops parks the driver ascends  
her stairs *Ma'moun* she's ninety *Ghassan* watched  
her husband die of cancer *Khalil* in their marriage bed  
every day *Shehada* she waits eats chicken piccata *Tamer*  
maybe baked ham broccoli *Iyad* rye bread fruit salad  
*Munther* what if the truck doesn't come tomorrow  
*Ramiz* how many days *Farid* without food *Nabil*  
how many bodies *Atwa* bombs *Rami* a street just like  
this *Lama* at least the tap works *Fatma* and her daughter visits