

RAMI KARIM

Smile & Nod

Warm diesel in the air
Braiding through windows
In a white Datsun
My illiterate grandfather recites poetry
I ask permission to forget
At the grocery store
The name of my great uncle
The cereal I'm allergic to

★

Will work for feeling
Ok write a think piece on whatever
You want really
Being something
Or other in America
Today is a real drag

★

Email me love letters
Cc: elephant
I'm flattered, blushing
The room is getting smaller
I send a kissy heart emoji

★

I love the TSA
Really do
I'll make small talk on an airplane
I'll ask for wine to
Distinguish myself

★

Gift-wrap fatigue
I want you to like me
Mold my face into a good time
A July 4th barbecue
Move away from me slowly
On an empty bus
If you don't look up
I won't notice

★

Looking to treat anxiety
As it relates to photo captions
I want to give everything credit
There are only so many words
When you look at my pag
I want you to think I'm cool but
Also quiet and sensitive

★

The sky of East Los Angeles
In the Mediterranean
A shared climate
Makes life easier to describe
In audible segments
Thirty minutes at a time

★

When I tell a story with words you
Don't understand it grips you
A humble missionary
I write a parable in English
Want to use a metaphor though
In this body you say
I am too abstract