



# A Scar Where Goodbyes Are Written

An Anthology of Venezuelan Poets in Chile

Translated and Edited by **DAVID M. BRUNSON**

## PRAISE FOR *A SCAR WHERE GOODBYES ARE WRITTEN*

“The poets in *A Scar Where Goodbyes Are Written* teach us hard and necessary lessons about the nature of displacement, engaging the reader in this most twenty-first century of lives. These are poems that break the heart open—but also make the world ring with their truths.”—Jesse Lee Kercheval, editor of *América invertida: An Anthology of Emerging Uruguayan Poets*

“A unique compilation of fifteen voices that shed light on and challenge the non-human aspect of statistics that quantify the tragedy of contemporary Venezuelans living abroad. In these poems, each author is a witness that must confront their own truths to reclaim the homeland they remember and to examine the in-between spaces that separate their native land from their adoptive one.”—Leonora Simonovis, author of *Study of the Raft*

“In poem after poem of this timely anthology, we find the personal meeting the political, shaped by place and by the forces of history. David M. Brunson’s generous editorial vision and his poetically inspired translations bring us art that is as urgent as the news.”—Geoffrey Brock, translator of Giuseppe Ungaretti’s *Allegria*, winner of the National Translation Award in Poetry

**DAVID M. BRUNSON**’s poems and translations have appeared in *Asymptote*, *Copper Nickel*, *Mānoa: A Pacific Journal of International Writing*, *Booth*, and elsewhere. The recipient of a Sturgis International Fellowship and a Lily Peter Fellowship in Translation, Brunson teaches English in Santiago, Chile.

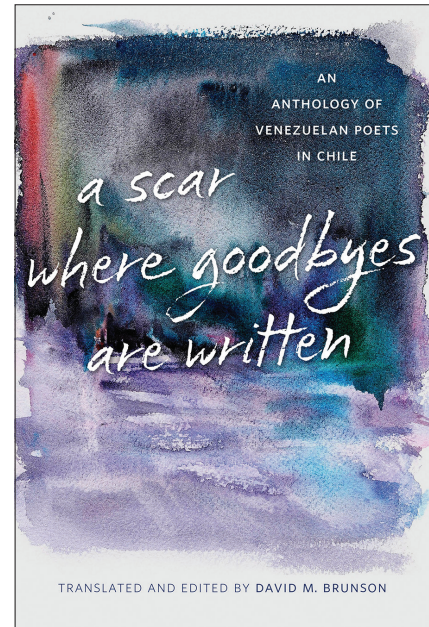
Leaving our land is wound and scar

Some go with scratches  
from their first bike crashes  
or pricks from their first vaccines

Others reveal the paper cuts on their fingers  
when they present their documents  
and ask for asylum or refuge . . .

Leaving this land is repudiation and resilience  
rootlessness and longing  
It’s our instinct to survive  
on this geopolitical patchwork quilt  
worn threadbare but sewn up again

—from “Migration,” by Ivana Aponte



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Poetry

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