

## The Boarding House

Excuse me  
but could you lower your voice?  
You speak so loud  
and endlessly  
You delete my choice.

Excuse me  
but what are you trying to say?  
who you trying to convince  
and convert  
to your ways?

I've got so many voices in my head  
they should be paying rent

I've got tenants quoting  
Jesus, Neruda, Mercedes Sosa  
T.S. Eliot, Benedetti, Huxley, Berg, and J.F.K.

Marx, Trudeau, Allende, Gandhi,  
Weber, Durkheim, and Nietzsche  
have the balcony suites  
they order room service  
and debate  
proletarianization of the masses  
abortion, CO2 emissions, taxation and representation.

Don't even get them started  
on sex, drugs, healthcare, and education.

They have agreed on many an item:  
Build a missile  
educate a child  
subsidize a zoo  
clear cut a rainforest  
free testing for HIV  
and treat them like lepers.

So you see...  
If you want to speak  
you'll have to wait your turn.

So far the vote of confidence  
in the legislature of my mind  
for each border  
has come up nay.

Take a number  
have a seat

I've got a lot of living and histories to digest  
before I get to you  
so don't fall in love  
with the sound of your own voice  
you'll always find  
it's only a filtration system for your own  
Cerebral Hotel  
but at least  
we've got  
the power of choice.

**Tania Guerrero**