

# **The End of an Era: One and a Half Years of Solitude**

*Raquel Cohen*

My soul was a silent empty cavity.

I was a robot, Zooming in, and Zooming out.

I was a black screen against a background of a dozen more black screens.

I was a voice that was not a voice;

only empty words that echoed through a speaker

until that day.

The day the sun came out.

The day I left my house.

It was warmth radiating from every direction.

It was remembering what it means to smile at someone and remembering how it feels to be smiled at.

The feeling was a symphony of tingles restringing my heart and elevating my soul.

Life was a flight of freedom for the first time in what felt like forever, I remember this feeling

forever, I realize that presence is a gift.