

MANDORLA

NUEVA ESCRITURA DE LAS AMÉRICAS • NEW WRITING FROM THE AMERICAS

Excerpt from / Fragmento de *Mandorla*, Issue 14

DEBORAH PAREDEZ

POEMS FROM "BLUE AND FULL OF STARS, 1944"

"Suicide Ends Career of Lupe Velez, Hollywood's Mexican Spitfire"
13 December 1944

I. *BEULAH KINDER, PERSONAL SECRETARY AND CONFIDANTE*

I found her
at first to be a broken

thermostat, her tempers
peaked and plummeting

as a marksman's clay disc
released and shattered.

But over the years
I came to know her

stillness, black ice under
snow, known only after

it's too late to do anything
but lose your footing

as when I found her
that morning wrapped

in white silk, the crushed
pillows crowning her

head like ether, empty
slippers overturned.