# Litany of the Once-Perfect Child

*Audrey Reyes*

*Sampung mga daliri, kamay at paa/ Dalawang*

*tenga, dalawang mata/ Ilong na maganda/ Maliliit*

*na ngipin, masarap kumain/ Dilang maliit*

*nagsasabi/ 'Wag kang magsinungaling.*

Ten fingers and toes/ Two ears, two eyes/ A

beautiful nose/ Small teeth, for eating/ A

small tongue/ That doesn't lie.

How perfect we were/ at birth/ doted on/ Tabula rasa/ grazing on our soft newborn skulls/ *Madami akong pangarap para sa'yo*/ God forbid/ we learn to be/ own persons/ *Sayaw ka para sa mga bisita*/ Speak at length /on wrongs/ in this world, in our homes/ *Sumagot ka na ha*/ God forbid/ they raise a child with a sharp tongue/ and fists raised in defiance/ *Pamamahay ko 'to, sumunod ka* / God forbid some of these tongues/ wriggle out lies/ *Wala akong anak na sinungaling*/ to live in perceived harmony/*Ginawa ko 'un dahil mahal kita*/ God forbid these tongues/ touch/ all you deem unholy/ *Beybi pa rin kita*/ One that says fuck/ to fuck/ and fuck/ Oh, fuck/I'm not/ your angel/ child/ *Ganyan ba kita pinalaki?*