

This Desert Road
Lorraine Caputo

With each kilometer
I abandon

a verdant valley
carpeted with
onion, corn, alfalfa,
embroidered with
vineyards & orchards

workers in the fields,
cows grazing in pastures,

adobe homes
the color of
barren buttes
on the far side
of a thin river

— — —

Along the side
of this desert road
a trio of metal crosses
shed like the lizards
that scurry across
the hot sands

shedding to a newer,
older self, until
nothing is left
but their
forgotten deaths

— — —

Signs on this Desert Road:

Ever forward
on the left

Drive defensively

...Trust in the Signs...

— — —

On the slope
of a dune
some hand has written
in white stones:

Frida
I love you

Lorraine Caputo is a documentary poet, translator and travel writer. Her works appear in over 200 journals on six continents; and 14 chapbooks of poetry – including *Caribbean Nights* (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2014), *Notes from the Patagonia* (dancing girl press, 2017) and *On Galápagos Shores* (dancing girl press, 2019). She also authors travel narratives, articles and guidebooks. In March 2011, the Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada honored her verse. Caputo has done literary readings from Alaska to the Patagonia. She travels through Latin America, listening to the voices of the pueblos and Earth. Follow her travels at: www.facebook.com/lorrainecaputo.wanderer or <https://latinamericawanderer.wordpress.com>.