

the complicity of the morning after

the subway and those stolen glances, the questions
your need to fight what you think isn't right
and those nights when you told me you wanted to slay the dragon inside you
at that party where everyone got tangled up with everyone else
I need you to tell me you took part
that's what I want from you — to know that life isn't passing you by
to be right in the middle of it, like in the middle of a California storm
a short, fierce one, but with no victims — after which everyone wakes up on the beach
and no one remembers what happened
I never told you this, but don't ever forget:
in storms, you have to throw yourself in with a peaceful heart

Mina Decu is a writer, editor, and translator. She writes poetry and first gained recognition with her debut volume *Desprindere* (2018), which received several awards: the *Mihai Eminescu National Poetry Prize – Opus Primum*, the *Young Poet of the Year 2018 Award* at the *Young Writers' Gala*, the *Debut Award* at the *George Coșbuc National Poetry Festival*, and the *Editorial Debut Award 2018* at the *APLER Gala*. She has participated in numerous poetry and literary festivals and events. Her poems—both in Romanian and in translation (English, French, and Hungarian)—have appeared in several anthologies and literary magazines in Romania and abroad.

