

Sheltering in place

by Nina Serrano

Standing in the sun on the balcony
the hummingbird feeder busy with birds
A woman walks by with a fluffy white dog
carrying a little brown paper bag
I call out “hello”
In my isolation I am safe
but I miss the chance for conversations with strangers
that brought me so much joy
that filled my long life
that taught me much
She and dog stopped
looking upward
She said “Hello
See I got this at the liquor store
to make into sanitizing spray ”
She pulls out a small bottle
“Clear All it's 100% alcohol
to mix with my aloe vera plant and vitamin E”
The dog tugs to move on
Carefully she puts treasure back in the bag
She is gone
I need some sanitizer
but its too late to ask her if it leaves a smell
If the sun is shining
maybe she will pass again tomorrow

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