

Warning Corona by Kent Thornburg

I.

We never suspected that infinitesimal specks would rob us.
We worried more about conniving thieves.
We worried more about larcenous hackers.
We worried more about unsubsidized ambitions.

II.

We were attacked by hordes of diabolical spikes.
We never saw them coming.
We never saw them at all.
We inhaled them unwittingly.

III.

We embodied the flesh they sought to consume.
We were betrayed by our own gullible tissue.
We invited the Trojans to dinner.
We were robbed of breath, coin, jubilee, suds, kisses and hugs.

IV.

Listen, haughty proteans,
Spikes can be rendered impotent.
Crowns don't assure victory.
Kingdoms eventually crumble.

V.

Beware, thieving specks.
We have weaponized our potions.
We have enchanted our armor.
We will prevail.