



RAFAEL CAMPO

The Enemy

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RAFAEL CAMPO

Duke University Press
Durham and London 2007

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Printed in the United States of America on
acid-free paper ☺

Designed by Heather Hensley

Typeset in Monotype Fournier by Tseng
Information Systems, Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-
Publication Data appear on the last printed
page of this book.

for Jorge, forever

So much of a writer's life consists of assumed suffering,
rhetorical suffering, that I felt something like relief,
even elation, when the doctor told me I had cancer. . . .
Suddenly in the air was a rich sense of crisis—real crisis,
yet one that also contained echoes of the ideas of the
crisis of language, the crisis of literature, or of personality.
It seemed to me that my existence, whatever I thought,
felt, or did, had taken on a kind of meter, as in poetry.

ANATOLE BROYARD, *INTOXICATED BY MY ILLNESS*

The Soul unto itself
Is an imperial friend—
Or the most agonizing Spy—
An Enemy—could send—

EMILY DICKINSON

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the editors of the following periodicals, in which some of the poems in this book have appeared, sometimes in slightly different forms:

<i>Bellevue Literary Review</i>	<i>New Letters</i>
<i>Bloom</i>	<i>Nimrod</i>
<i>Boston Review</i>	<i>North Dakota Quarterly</i>
<i>Both</i>	<i>Ploughshares</i>
<i>Callaloo</i>	<i>Poesis</i>
<i>Commonweal</i>	<i>The Progressive</i>
<i>Cortland Review</i>	<i>River Styx</i>
<i>Descant</i>	<i>Seattle Review</i>
<i>Euphony</i>	<i>Smartish Pace</i>
<i>Indiana Review</i>	<i>Tiferet</i>
<i>Los Angeles Review</i>	<i>Virginia Quarterly Review</i>
<i>Mid-American Review</i>	<i>Washington Square</i>
<i>The Nation</i>	<i>Yale Review</i>

Translations from *Cien Sonetos de Amor* and *Libro de Preguntas* by Pablo Neruda first appeared in *The Poetry of Pablo Neruda*, edited by Ilan Stavans (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2003).

“Toward a Theory of Memory” was the 2004 Phi Beta Kappa Poem for Ohio Wesleyan University.