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Quarters

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Quarters

Cover Page Footnote

I am a current MFA student of Creative Writing at Stetson University. I have been published in "Bullets into Bells" as well as three publications from Z Publishing's emerging writers series. I work as a substitute while I pursue my degree, but I have just accepted a job as a freelance editor and writer.

QUARTERS

NINA M. SISO

25%

a Latin dollar

of a language I don't

a quarter Puerto Rican.

Noun: Puerto Rican(s) (US Citizens), adjective: Puerto Rican

They: white 75.8% black/African American 12.4% other 8.5%. 99% Latino

Me? 25% Puerto Rican Percent Latino? cinco

first name "little girl." last name

I'm Perez and Santos cousins

But I'm still asked

"what synagogue do you go to?"

colonizer, privileged, sipping green tea

with water from the tap

nestled in the eye

hurricane: evil spirit of the wind

outside Irma and Maria rage, floods

155 mph

the island anticipates

since 89 years

I turn on my lamp

10 atomic bombs

everything shuts off

per second

my rage at 12%

at least 12 killed

they said 64

over 1000 silenced
90% from floods
What about the other 10?
Curly and course
The exhaustion of my blood
Ancestral blue eyes. Waters that 75% of me probably sailed
to claim their destined burden.
the boxes Hispanic/Latino and
next box white.
To lay with
the consonants and tangle with the rolled Rs
pretending but not married to it
slowly bleach dropped
from my grandmother my mother
diluting to Google translate
to foreigner in my own protectorate history
of what should be
but income is 2/3 of the "mainland's"
Unemployment 13.7%
I cheat and cling, ¿ por que?
Scared
"white"
so badly the bad guy
so badly bland
so badly majority
my smudged quarter

\$.25 worth of Spanish Puerto Rico mallorca bread
Matriarchs reina mora flor de maga
ceiba a life that my grandfather lived
and his father far back before it
evaporates into ancient indigenous
invaded belonging
forged from my blood
comprised of
promise
compromise.