

I AM FROM

by Leslie Salinas

I am from the Windy City,
from the Land of Enchantment y la Victoria de Durango
I am from an organized setting
With a cherry blossom scent
I am from the sage that cleanses my home
The pomegranate tree in Mama Lupe and Papa Libo's backyard, both whom I miss dearly

I'm from the constant translations and brown skin
from la seria Sandra y el valiente Valentin
I'm from beans and rice and "there's food at home".

I'm from the coffee that apparently stopped my growth and early curfews in fear of la llorona and cumbias.
I'm from loteria and karaoke on New Year's Eve.
I'm Mexican and American
Chili rellenos and pizza
From the cold and snowy memories in Chicago to the hot and sunny memories in Albuquerque and the fresh warmth of Durango.