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## White on the Outside | Brown on the Inside

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## White on the Outside | Brown on the Inside

### Cover Page Footnote

This poem is in honor of all the queer Chicax lives that have paved the way and have allowed me to exist openly today.

White on the Outside | Brown on the Inside

by Damon R. Carbajal

Chicano, White, Xicano, Anglo,  
Chicanx, Caucasian, Xicanx, Light-skinned  
Brown Father + White Mother = A Mexicano Mutt A  
bordered borderless body

Half Colonized; Half Colonizer;  
Half-Blood of Rape and Violence; Half-Blood of Privilege;  
Half Enchiladas y beans y rice; Half Meat and potatoes Half Toxic  
Masculinity; Half Machismo  
Half *Quinceañeras*; Half Sweet Sixteens  
Half Brown; Half White

Light-Skin---Too White for Us  
Mexican Last Name---Too Mexican for Us  
Not Fluent in *Español*--- Too White for Us  
*Abuela* not Grandma--- Too Mexican for Us  
Oh, you went to that high school---Too White for Us  
Oh, you want to teach at that high school--- Too Mexican for Us

Rotting from trauma and bullying and rape in a male dominated world  
Rotting from being too white and too brown in a binary world Rotting  
from being a fruit, a homo, a fairy in a hetero world Rotting from  
living as halves in the margins of a whole world Rotting from anxiety,  
depression, and suicidal thoughts Rotting from the inside out

Lady Gaga and Panic! at the Disco---Too White for Us  
Selena y *Reggaetón*---Too Mexican for Us  
I like David Levithan & Adam Rippon --- Too White for  
Us Yo soy John Rechy y Salvador Novo--- Too Mexican  
for Us Born in Las Cruces, NM---Too White for Us  
The border crossed mi familia---Too Mexican for Us

MASC'd by toxic masculinity and machismo MASC'd by  
tradition and the nuclear family  
MASC'd by religion and my sins

MASC'd by the stigma of mental health  
MASC'd by skinny being the ideal standard  
MASC'd by being more femme than people want me

White, Xicano, Anglo, Chicano  
Caucasian, Xicanx, Light-skinned, Chicanx  
White Mother + Brown Father = A White Mutt  
A borderless bordered body

**Damon R. Carbajal** (he/el) is a gay, queer Chicanx educator, scholar, and activist. He is an M.A. candidate in Chicana/o/x Studies and will also receive a certificate in “Race” and Social Justice from the University of New Mexico (UNM). He holds a B.A. in Secondary Education with concentrations in Communicative and Performing Arts from UNM. He is currently the Co-Chair and Policy Coordinator for Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network Albuquerque (GLSEN), sits on the New Mexico Educational Theatre Association Board, and works as the Operations Manager at Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc. (NAPPR). His research focuses on creating and maintaining equity for LGBTQ+ Chicanx students and educators. His work aims to re-center lost voices with a focus on equity and social justice because all humans deserve to have their voice not only heard but centered. The poem collection corresponds to the inaugural theme of *Chamisa* in that it illuminates the importance of the many intersections of identity, art, and culture that should be celebrated among the diverse people of the greater U.S. Southwest. By illuminating these intersections, the poems aid in showcasing the true resilience of the people of the Southwest while speaking to the deep cultural ties that many families have had to this place for many years. For Damon, this is the intersectional queer Chicanx experience in the greater Southwest, specifically New Mexico. ¡*Si Se Puede!*