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the. BROKEN. GAY. CHICANX. grind.

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the. BROKEN. GAY. CHICANX. grind.

by Damon R. Carbajal

6:45 AM. Alarm. Wake up. Shower. Get Dressed. Coffee.

Keys. Drive. To Work. The Grind. Work. Coffee. Work.

Coffee. Work.

Meeting 9 AM. Meeting 11 AM. Meeting 2 PM. Drive.

To Class. The Grind. In Class. Talk. Smile. Laugh. Talk. Drive.

To Apt. Coffee. Homework. Read. Wine. Homework. Eat. Coffee. Homework.

2 AM. Sleep. I wish.

PANIC ATTACK.

Sleep. I wish.

NO ONE LIKES ME.

3 AM. Sleep. Finally.

4 AM. NIGHTMARE.

Sleep. I wish.

PANIC ATTACK.

Sleep. I wish.

I'M SO LONELY

4:45 AM. Sleep. Finally

5:15 AM. STARTLED AWAKE.

Sleep. I wish.

FLASHBACK.

Sleep. I wish.

SUICIDE?

Sleep. I wish.

I HATE MYSELF.

5:45 AM. Sleep. Finally.

6:10 AM. ANXIETY.

Sleep. I wish.

STRESS.

Sleep. I wish.

I'M GOING TO FAIL.

Sleep. I wish.

WHY DOES EVERYONE HATE ME?

Sleep. I wish.

FUCK ME.

6:30 AM. Sleep. Finally.

6:45 AM. Alarm. Wake up. Shower. Get Dressed. Coffee.

Keys. Drive. To Work. The Grind. Work. Coffee. Work.

Coffee. Work.

Meeting 9 AM. Meeting 11 AM. Meeting 2 PM. Drive.

To Class. The Grind. In Class. Talk. Smile. Laugh. Talk. Drive.

To Apt. Coffee. Homework. Read. Wine. Homework. Eat. Coffee. Homework.

REPEAT. REPEAT. REPEAT. REPEAT.

Life. Broken. Gay. Chicax.

Student. REPEAT. REPEAT.

REPEAT. REPEAT.

Life. Broken. Gay. Chicax.

Student. REPEAT. REPEAT.

REPEAT. REPEAT.

9 AM. GRADUATION. DEGREE.

CELEBRATION. GRIND OVER

NEVER.

STILL. LIFE. BROKEN. GAY. CHICANX.

GRIND. UNTIL. YOU. DIE. MARGINALIZED. MUST. BE. PERFECT. PERFECT. pErfeCT.

Damon R. Carbajal (he/el) is a gay, queer Chicax 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. ¡*Sí Se Puede!*