

1-1-1999

## Not Him, Sister's Stories & Teresita (Poems)

Antoinette M. Sedillo Lopez  
*University of New Mexico - School of Law*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/law\\_facultyscholarship](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/law_facultyscholarship)



Part of the [Law and Gender Commons](#), and the [Law and Race Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Antoinette M. Sedillo Lopez, *Not Him, Sister's Stories & Teresita (Poems)*, 2 *Voces: A Journal of Chicana/Latina Studies (Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS))* 44 (1999).

Available at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/law\\_facultyscholarship/243](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/law_facultyscholarship/243)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the UNM School of Law at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu), [lsoane@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lsoane@salud.unm.edu), [sarahrk@unm.edu](mailto:sarahrk@unm.edu).



SCHOOL  
OF LAW

SMALL SCHOOL.  
BIG VALUE.

## Not Him

Antoinette Sedillo López

Alcoholics drink all the time.

faces falling loose around the head,

hair dull with shame.

he really wasn't an alcoholic

he only drank on week-ends

and he looked good.

alcoholics smell like sour beer

bodies yellow like the babies

jaundiced with the strain of living on their own

he really wasn't an alcoholic

he smelled like mint and leather

and his skin was bronze,

alcoholics lose their jobs.

random life styles chokes

their friends and family who finally leave.

he really wasn't an alcoholic

he worked hard and he only called her "*puta*"

when he was *borracho*; it's just the drink,

don't you think?

alcoholics go to bars

everyone knows who they are

drinking their pay while kids cry *hambre* eating  
up their hearts

he really isn't an alcoholic

he drank his whiskey at home

and gave grandma his check every week

alcoholics die young

bodies rotting from the poison eating  
livers and love.

he lied

about living

to see me finish school

pride eluded his life

when he died.

# **Sisters' Stories**

**Antoinette Sedillo López**

## **Colonization**

**Indian Women**

**Were given**

**or gave themselves**

**(rape)**

**reproduced**

**(birth)**

**cared for their**

**children.**

**Their work produced**

**wealth**

**for Spaniards under rules**

**(colonization)**

**dictated by Spaniards (men).**

**Spaniards**

**satisfied their needs;**

**they accumulated**

**wealth**

**and passed it on**

**to their white children (men).**

**Spaniards left their mark**

## **African Women**

**African Women**

**were stolen**

**or sold**

**(slavery)**

**reproduced**

**(rape)**

**cared for their**

**and their masters' children**

**Their work produced**

**wealth**

**for owners under rules**

**(slavery)**

**dictated by whites (men).**

**Slavemasters**

**satisfied their needs;**

**they accumulated**

**wealth**

**and passed it on**

**to their white children**

**(men).**

**Slavemasters left their mark**

on the faces, bodies,  
names  
of the children  
(colonization)  
and on the backs and bodies  
  
of the women  
whose earth brown faces  
will never disappear.

on the faces, bodies  
names  
of the children  
(oppression)  
and on the backs and  
bodies  
of the women  
whose earth brown faces  
will never disappear.

## **Teresita**

**Antoinette Sedillo López**

He bought  
her body  
for sheep, guns and a cow  
from starving indigenous  
poor.

He brought  
her spirit  
into his home  
away  
from her people,  
alone.

Sixteen years of life  
she has lost her tongue,  
dying to herself.

Six years of children,  
she had lost her will  
dying to this world.

They say  
she died  
of a broken heart.

Women died  
back then  
alone  
with child  
alone  
with pain  
alone  
with hunger  
alone  
with cold  
alone  
with sacrifice  
alone  
with disease  
alone  
with loveless soul.

Who can say she left this life?

They say  
pray a rosary for Teresita,  
no saint helped her then.  
Perhaps Our Lady helps her now.