

# After Angelitos Negros

I can't w "Afrolatinx are now making themselves heard"... Let's just be honest and say we weren't listening.

—Twitter, July 2018

Call it *negra, negrita*  
Call it *morena, mulata*  
Say *te levantaste con lo de Africana subida.*

Some of us borrow colonial logic  
like a cup of sugar from the neighbor.

Call it *I didn't know. Who knew?*  
Call it *I knew you were mixed with some—thing. Thing?*  
Say *is that really your mom? Oh, now I see it!*

Some of us still beg an invite to the table  
when the only seat available is *sin-eater.*

Call it *parameters of pigment*  
Call it *stay in your lane*  
Say *you'll know exactly who I am when I open my mouth.*

Midwest living is a PhD in Caribbean  
Slave Trade, and missing but not missing home

where they say *creído* with the sweetness of guarapo,  
and they groan *sin verguenza*, through a belly ache.

So *por si acaso no regreso:*  
Call it *angelitos negros,*  
Say, *ningunos somos bueno.*