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To Grandma
You are and forever will be the embodiment of a badass
Your strength and valor has taught me
to speak out of line and to question everything
Thank you

This man
All blue eyed Spanish devil
Pepper Shaker goatee
Said my Spanish was not
"Real Spanish"
Puerto Rican Spanish isn't real
He said he could barely understand it
Well my Spanish is all west African drums and conga
All Arawakan prayer and Hurricane dance
My Spanish is your consequence
You will never hear the th sound come out
Where an s is
You will not get the satisfaction of your perfect
I will skip S's and R's just to piss you off
And to pay tribute to the language that came before you
Variations of your language is our way to give you a big fuck you
Dialect of disobedience
Language of what isn't lost
Diction of Defiance

Story goes lightning taught me to not be scared
That during storms my mom would teach me to look directly in the eye of the storm and see why
I couldn't be afraid of it
Now 12 years later she says I took it too seriously
That I am too unfazed by every storm
But how could I not be?
I've seen this woman look at raging rivers and think raft
How she looks at unafraid reckless teenage daughter and still see baby girl
How she saw new country and different language thought home
I grew up seeing woman and unafraid
Turned struggle into food on the table
And men dare ask me why I'm not afraid of them
And I say it's because hurricanes are named after women
My mother is lightning
And story goes lightning taught me not to be scared

November 9th
2:30 am
I woke up
Wishing for the map to be a deep blue
But I saw my mother's face
Her eyes as red as the map on the tv screen
I pretended to be surprised
I pretended to be shocked
Like this brown hasn't started wars already
Like these borders haven't seen bloodshed already
Like the rio grande hasn't been doused in brown blood already
Like I don't remember being called a spic in 5th grade
Like this trauma isn't generational
I couldn't go to school the next day
I dreamt of revolutions
A red sky with black and brown fists in the air
The sound of shattered windows and car alarms our anthem
We the people
Of the United States
In order to form a more perfect union
Must overthrow the fascist
Establish justice
By any means necessary

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