

# The Crambo

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## Quarters

Nina M. Siso

Stetson University, [nsiso@stetson.edu](mailto:nsiso@stetson.edu)

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## Quarters

### **Cover Page Footnote**

I am a current MFA student of Creative Writing at Stetson University. I have been published in "Bullets into Bells" as well as three publications from Z Publishing's emerging writers series. I work as a substitute while I pursue my degree, but I have just accepted a job as a freelance editor and writer.

# QUARTERS

# NINA M. SISO

25%

a Latin dollar

of a language I don't

a quarter Puerto Rican.

Noun: Puerto Rican(s) (US Citizens), adjective: Puerto Rican

They: white 75.8%      black/African American 12.4%      other 8.5%.      99% Latino

Me? 25% Puerto Rican      Percent Latino? cinco

first name "little girl." last name

I'm Perez and Santos cousins

But I'm still asked

"what synagogue do you go to?"

colonizer, privileged, sipping green tea

with water from the tap

nestled in the eye

hurricane: evil spirit of the wind

outside Irma and Maria rage, floods

155 mph

the island anticipates

since 89 years

I turn on my lamp

*10 atomic bombs*

everything shuts off

*per second*

my rage at 12%

at least 12 killed

they said 64

over 1000 silenced  
90% from floods  
What about the other 10?  
Curly and course  
The exhaustion of my blood  
Ancestral blue eyes. Waters that 75% of me probably sailed  
to claim their destined burden.  
the boxes Hispanic/Latino and  
next box white.  
To lay with  
the consonants and tangle with the rolled Rs  
pretending but not married to it  
slowly bleach dropped  
from my grandmother my mother  
diluting to Google translate  
to foreigner in my own protectorate history  
of what should be  
but income is 2/3 of the "mainland's"  
Unemployment 13.7%  
I cheat and cling, ¿ por que?  
Scared  
"white"  
so badly the bad guy  
so badly bland  
so badly majority  
my smudged quarter

\$.25 worth of Spanish    Puerto Rico    mallorca bread  
Matriarchs    reina mora    flor de maga  
ceiba    a life that my grandfather lived  
and his father far back before it  
evaporates into ancient indigenous  
invaded belonging  
forged from my blood  
comprised of  
promise  
compromise.