Spring 1979

The Man Who Named Children

Alberto Ríos

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Ríos, Alberto (1979) "The Man Who Named Children," CutBank: Vol. 1 : Iss. 12 , Article 44.
Available at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss12/44

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
Panfilo’s head was shaped awkwardly
so that his mother would let out
one side of his hat.
He prayed for himself
and confessed this, finally
to the priest, Father Torres
who recognized Panfilo’s voice
in the confessional and said
it was all right.
The priest was there
when Panfilo was born,
when his mother almost died
and needed extreme unction.
Panfilo remembered being scared.
He was taken wrapped in a blanket
to his father who wanted a son.
But this is ugly! said his father
and held him up by the lightbulb
so the other men could see.
I will name him Panfilo
he decided, and the men
looked down at their hands
and said to Panfilo’s father yes,
each in his turn.