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Powder Sugar Donut

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Powder Sugar Donut

My grandmother made a man
back down one day
Right there on the sidewalk
outside the bakery
Downtown
Feet spread she held me
My face pressed into her belly
against her clean white warm
cool I make flour tortillas apron

She shook her fist at that man
Her voice cried
He had no choice before her

Grabbing my face she brought
her face close told me
never to listen to such words
Some people are mean and mean
no good
They are stupid and can't see
that
I am her grandchild

Always remember you are mine
Hold your head high
Do not listen to such people
They tell lies

I was spinning in the heat
An old man in a straw hat
passed by knowing and smiled
My grandma is brave

I was little
My grandma was big
Without her I have
no Mexican shadow
to cool the heat

Here come in girl
It's hot and hard
out there
Have a cookie
You want a powder sugar donut
Your grandmother loves you

Stay here and eat your donut
Here it is cool and
there's powder sugar
all over the place

Powder sugar walls
Powder sugar linoleum
Powder sugar cookies
Powder sugar dusted donuts
soften my heart
My grandmother is crying
in the bakery back room
My donut turns hard
Sticks in my throat
I push it down with a
swallow it lands
lying in a lump

A sadness with no name
finds me in the bakery
It settles on me
sucking out the coolness
taking the air right
out of the heat