

UC Merced

The Vernal Pool

Title

We Are More Than Who He Took Away

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4cf3b1pv>

Journal

The Vernal Pool, 6(1)

Author

Cantero, Alina

Publication Date

2019

DOI

10.5070/V361045417

Copyright Information

Copyright 2019 by the author(s). This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Peer reviewed|Undergraduate

We Are More Than Who He Took Away

The sun began to set, so I decided to speak.

With Danny I started, as he was the oldest.

I'd ask them all over the coming week

“Seven” he said then hung up, the one who to me was the coldest.

Onto Richie, the one who doesn't work.

Excluding yourself, what's your mother's total of kids?

“Seven, my brothers and sisters” he began to say with a smirk

“The little one always liked to steal my water cup lids.”

Proceeded to Gilbert since he's next in line.

As he answered I heard it in his voice, all of the pain

“Seven, my sweet- he didn't take her away, she is still mine.”

As he spoke, I was left motionless in the pouring rain.

Tío Frankie, it's your turn to answer now

“Of course, love, I have seven- we were always side by side

I continuously question to him why, and wish I could forget how

Though the youngest of all, she'd always come along for the ride”

Father, she asked, in your family how many siblings are there?

“Richie, Gilbert, Danny, Frankie, your nino, Sandra and Ashley, so seven

Even if the same father we all do not share”

But Nino, Ashley has left us to go to heaven.

“I know mija, but I still have a total of seven

Five brothers and two sisters, he replied.”

But her body wasn't even hidden

You still consider yourselves seven though one of you has died?

“Hi mija, of course there are seven siblings, he killed her but not in my heart”

No tia, he took her from us, we will never get her back

“Yes, she may be gone but that doesn't tear my siblings apart

We have plenty, family is something we do not lack”

Hello my siblings, it's Ashley here.

You're all being watched over, trust.

My baby has grown for the fifth year.

Don't worry, we're not alone, your father is taking care of us.