

Learned English with Barney
And the *novela* hour, Babysat
myself and *el gordo*
during Saturday Baywatch and Sunday morning cartoons I
loved those Cheeto days
getting honor roll, perfect attendance, and award metals

Ay, I, brought by a desperate mother and an alcoholic father
Born in the, so-called “wrong side”

tired of pleasing and
trying to impress you
jumping over every bump you throw my way
while you try so hard
to lead me astray

Why do you hate me, call me “illegal?” Why
are you so scared?

Scared of me?
my color? my
people?
Or our potential?

Nah, there is no need to debate
my dreams
are larger than your hate So
like Fox News
let me give you an update

--“We were here before 1492, back to the studio, Jim”
--[Insert your favorite commercial break here]
--Jingle: “*American family insurance...*”

CriminalICEd “indigenous immigrants”
U.S. paradox created

Kati’s brown ICEs cry her
punished parents
Abducted for being born on southern side

I see white dreams fulfilling like it’s easy

I see my dreams betraying my ICE
Telling me, “don’t you realICE, you need a *milagro*”

A miracle to escape this slave, cage, they’ve put me in
To escape the walls they build
bars that they set glass
ceiling, they Wind-ex
To escape without fear

Minuteman, You need a *limpia* from your *susto* cuz
I am not the criminal!
the one to blame
an “illegal” the
other

I am you...
your ancestors reaching this land Inhabited,
feeding, sustaining my *antepasados*.
Re-member your ancestors with Columbus
Overstayed-uninvited-visa lacking-immigrants, too

& in case you were wondering
I do not hate the Sheriff the
fear and ignorance he emits
makes me feel sorry for him

He has tortured me terrorICEd
me
still I stand free as a tree
with deeper roots
than you can ever imagine

if you deport us all
YOU will have to clean your own toilets
build your own homes and pick your
own food

I know it is not convenient to end oppressions But
we endure, and we will not give up...

when these dreams reach reality you
will remember this poem
you will remember me