

Redefining Victim

ELIANA BUENROSTRO

A victim is a swallower of dreams
all dreams except their own
victims who fight back
and hit back
strike you
a victim's cries sound like the moon
a victim lives their life (w)holy,
for themselves
placed in a box and surviving
with legs and wings cut off
what happens when the trauma escapes
and latches onto your lover
a victim is never fire
emitting a dull glow through space
time and love

Eliana Buenrostro is a Chicana writer, poet and spiritual activist from Southern California. In 2015, she conducted a field research project in Chiapas, Mexico on violence against women as part of undergraduate degree at UCLA and she has been active in rape crisis organizations in Chicago. This fall she will be attending DePaul University in Chicago as a master's student in Women and Gender Studies.

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eating boys whole
swimming in fire and washed in moonlight
Soars and floats across platforms
Hungry for another life
Hoping for a new beginning
Lands in a new city and dreams
To be
Present for once and hopes
to see a light
a light that speaks and
hums and pauses
a breath
a turn
a skip
a break from monotony
a gasp and a prayer
sung from the mortuary
the mind at ease
swelled with emotion and
reservations of a new found she
tormentors and cunning
she is a life ruiner
joyous and all destroying
smiles when she sinks her teeth in you