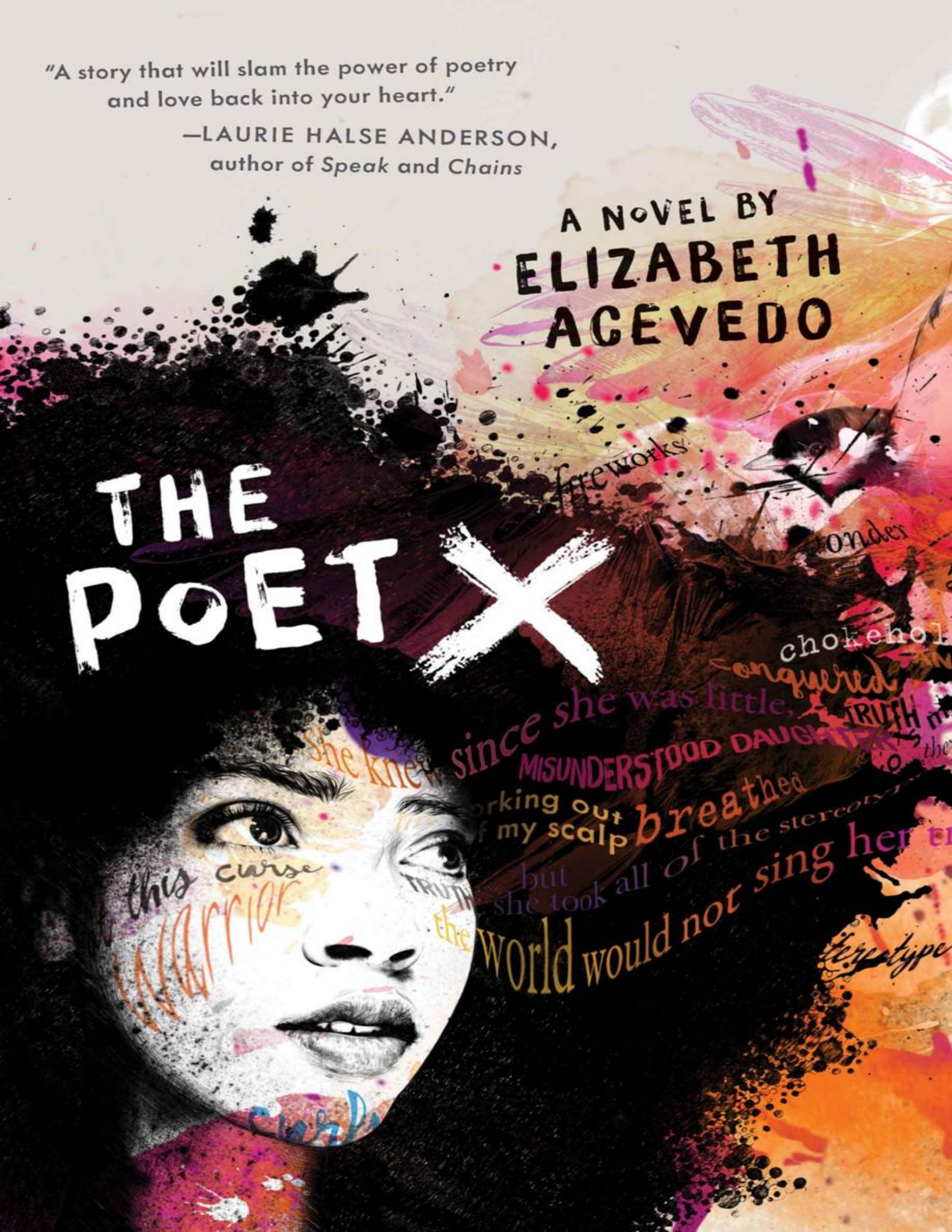


"A story that will slam the power of poetry  
and love back into your heart."

—LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON,  
author of *Speak* and *Chains*

A NOVEL BY  
**ELIZABETH  
ACEVEDO**

# THE POET X





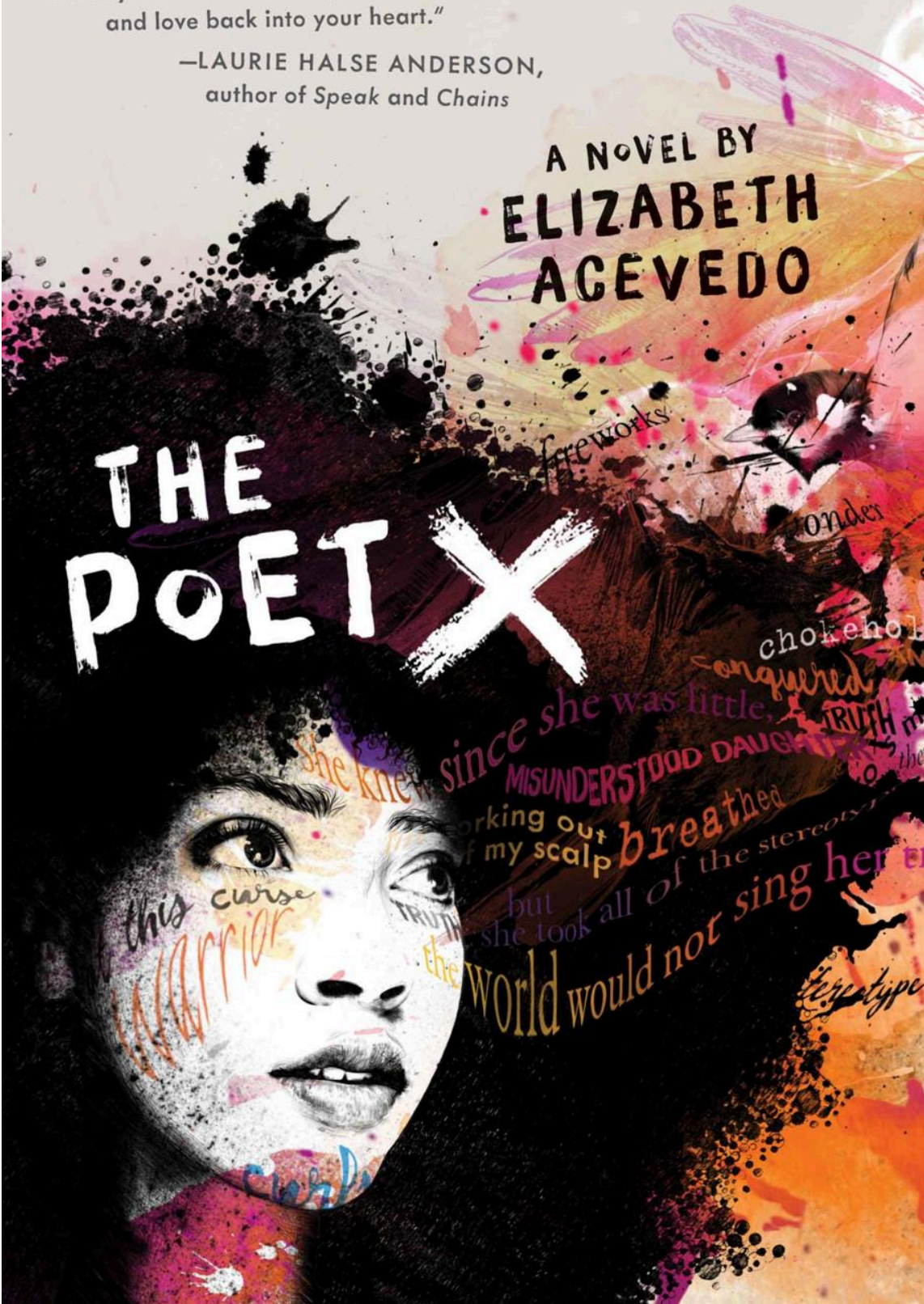


"A story that will slam the power of poetry  
and love back into your heart."

—LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON,  
author of *Speak* and *Chains*

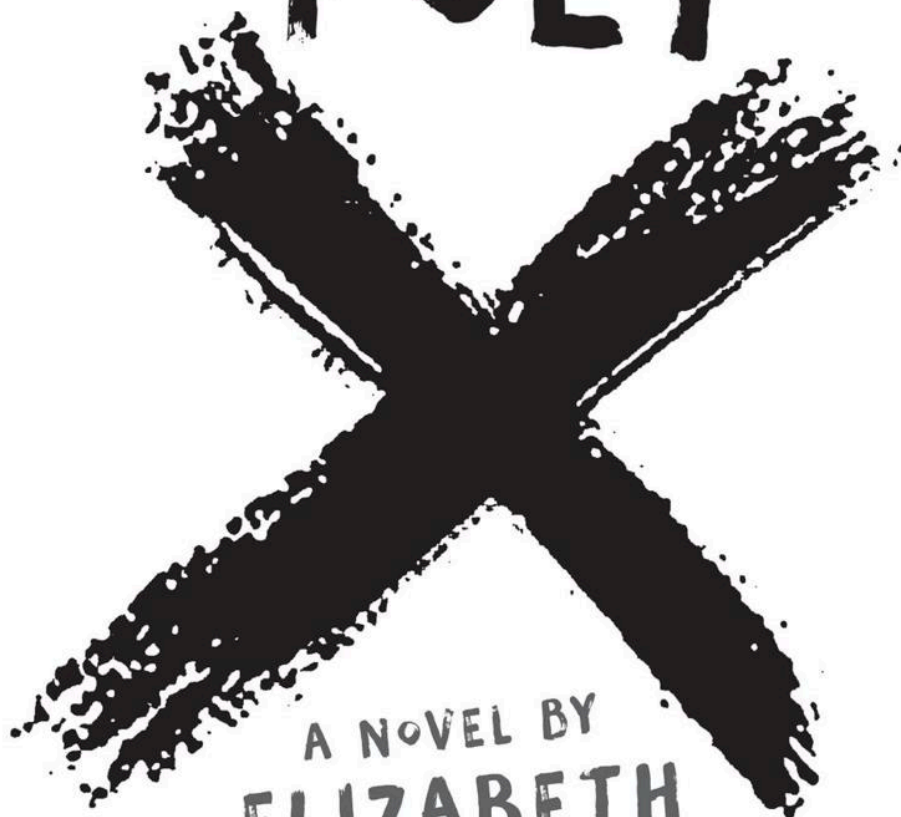
A NOVEL BY  
**ELIZABETH  
ACEVEDO**

# THE POET X





# THE POET



A NOVEL BY  
**ELIZABETH  
ACEVEDO**

**HARPER TEEN**

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

## **Dedication**

*To Katherine Bolaños and my former students*

*at Buck Lodge Middle School 2010–2012,*

*and all the little sisters yearning to see themselves: this is for you*

## **Contents**

[Cover](#)

[Title Page](#)

[Dedication](#)

[Part I: In the Beginning Was the Word](#)

[Stoop-Sitting](#)

[Unhide-able](#)

[Mira, Muchacha](#)

[Names](#)

[The First Words](#)

[Mami Works](#)

[Confirmation Class](#)

[God](#)

[“Mami,” I Say to Her on the Walk Home](#)

[When You’re Born to Old Parents](#)

[When You’re Born to Old Parents, Continued](#)

[When You’re Born to Old Parents, Continued Again](#)

[The Last Word on Being Born to Old Parents](#)

[Rumor Has It,](#)

[First Confirmation Class](#)

[Father Sean](#)

[Haiku](#)

[Boys](#)

[Caridad and I Shouldn’t Be Friends](#)

[Questions I Have](#)

[Night before First Day of School](#)

[H.S.](#)

Ms. Galiano

Rough Draft of Assignment 1—Write about the most impactful day of your life.

Final Draft of Assignment 1 (What I Actually Turn In)

The Routine

Altar Boy

Twin's Name

More about Twin

It's Only the First Week of Tenth Grade

How I Feel about Attention

Games

After

Okay?

On Sunday

During Communion

Church Mass



[Not Even Close to Haikus](#)

[Holy Water](#)

[People Say](#)

[On Papi](#)

[All Over a Damn Wafer](#)

[The Flyer](#)

[After the Buzz Dies Down](#)

[Aman](#)

[Whispering with Caridad Later That Day](#)

[What Twin Be Knowing](#)

[Sharing](#)

[Questions for Ms. Galiano](#)

[Spoken Word](#)

[Wait—](#)

[Holding a Poem in the Body](#)

[J. Cole vs. Kendrick Lamar](#)

[Asylum](#)

[What I Tell Aman:](#)

[Dreaming of Him Tonight](#)

[The Thing about Dreams](#)

[Date](#)

[Mami's Dating Rules](#)

[Clarification on Dating Rules](#)

[Feeling Myself](#)

[Part II: And the Word Was Made Flesh](#)

[Smoke Parks](#)

[I Decided a Long Time Ago](#)

[Why Twin Is a Terrible Twin](#)

[Why Twin Is a Terrible Twin, for Real](#)

[Why Twin Is a Terrible Twin \(Last and Most Important Reason\)](#)

[But Why Twin Is Still the Only Boy I'll Ever Love](#)

[Communication](#)

[About A](#)

[Catching Feelings](#)

[Notes with Aman](#)

[What I Didn't Say to Caridad in Confirmation Class](#)

[Lectures](#)

[Ms. Galiano's Sticky Note on Top of Assignment 1](#)

[Sometimes Someone Says Something](#)

[Listening](#)

[Mother Business](#)

[And Then He Does](#)

[Warmth](#)

[The Next Couple of Weeks](#)

[Eve,](#)

["I Think the Story of Genesis Is Mad Stupid"](#)

[As We Are Packing to Leave](#)

[Father Sean](#)

[Answers](#)

[Rough Draft Assignment 2—Last paragraphs of My Biography](#)

[Final Draft of Assignment 2 \(What I Actually Turn In\)](#)

[Hands](#)

[Fingers](#)

[Talking Church](#)

[Swoon](#)

[Telephone](#)

[Over Breakfast](#)

[Angry Cat, Happy X](#)

[About Being in Like](#)

[Music](#)

[Ring the Alarm](#)

[The Day](#)

[Wants](#)

[At My Train Stop](#)



[What I Don't Tell Aman](#)

[Kiss Stamps](#)

[The Last Fifteen-Year-Old](#)

[Concerns](#)

[What Twin Knows](#)

[Hanging Over My Head](#)

[Friday](#)

[Black & Blue](#)

[Tight](#)

[Excuses](#)

[Costume Ready](#)

[Reuben's House Party](#)

[One Dance](#)

[Stoop-Sitting . . . with Aman](#)

[Convos with Caridad](#)

[Braiding](#)

[Fights](#)

[Scrapping](#)

[What We Don't Say](#)

[Gay](#)

[Feeling Off When Twin Is Mad](#)

[Rough Draft of Assignment 3—Describe someone you consider  
misunderstood by society.](#)

[Final Draft of Assignment 3 \(What I Actually Turn In\)](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Ice-Skating](#)

[Until](#)

[Love](#)

[Around and Around We Go](#)

[After Skating](#)

[This Body on Fire](#)

[The Shit & the Fan](#)

Miracles

Fear

Ants

I Am No Ant

Diplomas

Cuero

Mami Says,

Repetition

Things You Think While You're Kneeling on Rice That Have Nothing

to Do with Repentance:

Another Thing You Think While You're Kneeling on Rice That Has

Nothing to Do with Repentance:

The Last Thing You Think While You're Kneeling on Rice That Has

Nothing to Do with Repentance:

Leaving

What Do You Need from Me?

[Consequences](#)

[Late That Night](#)

[In Front of My Locker](#)

[Part III: The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness](#)

[Silent World](#)

[Heavy](#)

[My Confession](#)

[Father Sean Says,](#)

[Prayers](#)

[How I Can Tell](#)

[Before We Walk in the House](#)

[My Heart Is a Hand](#)

[A Poem Mami Will Never Read](#)

[In Translation](#)

[Heartbreak](#)

[Reminders](#)



[Writing](#)

[What I'd Like to Tell Aman When He Sends Another Apology](#)

[Message:](#)

[Favors](#)

[Pulled Back](#)

[On Thanksgiving](#)

[Haiku: The Best Part About Thanksgiving Was When Mami:](#)

[Rough Draft of Assignment 4—When was the last time you felt free?](#)

[Rough Draft of Assignment 4—When was the last time you felt free?](#)

[Rough Draft of Assignment 4—When was the last time you felt free?](#)

[Final Draft of Assignment 4 \(What I Actually Turn In\)](#)

[Gone](#)

[Zeros](#)

[Possibilities](#)

[Can't Tell Me Nothing](#)

[Isabelle](#)

[First Poetry Club Meeting](#)

[Nerves](#)

[When I'm Done](#)

[Compliments](#)

[Caridad Is Standing Outside the Church](#)

[Hope Is a Thing with Wings](#)

[Here](#)

[Haikus](#)

[Offering](#)

[Holding Twin](#)

[Cody](#)

[Problems](#)

[Dominican Spanish Lesson:](#)

[Permission](#)

[Open Mic Night](#)

[Signed Up](#)

[The Mic Is Open](#)

[Invitation](#)

[All the Way Hype](#)

[At Lunch on Monday](#)

[At Poetry Club](#)

[Every Day after English Class](#)

[Christmas Eve](#)

[It's a Rosary](#)

[Longest Week](#)

[The Waiting Game](#)

[Birthdays](#)

[The Good](#)

[The Bad](#)

[The Ugly](#)

[Let Me Explain](#)

[If Your Hand Causes You to Sin](#)

Verses

Burn

Where There Is Smoke

Things You Think About in the Split Second Your Notebook Is

Burning

Other Things You Think About in the Split Second Your Notebook Is

Burning

My Mother Tries to Grab Me

Returning

On the Walk to the Train

The Ride

No Turning Back

Taking Care

In Aman's Arms

And I Also Know

Tangled