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The Great Thing About Being Sometimes Hispanic

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Painting by Briana Keeper

The part when I infiltrate the imperialist hive,
wings fall off

But not the part when my

The part when I can afford to shop at Target,
still eat Taco Bell

But not the part when I

The part when my skin looks white,
tans after a hike

But not the part when it

The part when I speak un poquito Spanish,
can't understand Grandma

But not the part when I

The part when I earn a college degree,
can barely pay for it

But not the part when I

The part when I have many brothers and sisters,
there're three mothers

But not the part when

The part when my father pronounces "chair" *sher*,
laugh at him

But not the part when we

The part when I am mistaken for full white,
name sounds full brown

But not the part when my

The part when I am blessed with rhythm,
hate to dance

But not the part when I

The part when I got it goin' on in my pants,
can't keep it in

But not the part when I

The part when I dreamt I was white,
opened my eyes

But not the part when I

The part when I dream I am Hispanic,
open my eyes

But not the part when I

San Antonian Alex Z. Salinas earned a bachelor's degree in political science from St. Mary's University in 2011. His flash fiction has appeared online in Every Day Fiction, Nanoism, escarp, 101 Words, 101 Fiction, and ZeroFlash. He has also had poetry published in the San Antonio Express-News.

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