

When Love Was Reels Poetry

José B. González



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Recovering the past, creating the future

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"Scene with Ricardo Montalbán, Fantasy Island (1977–1984)." Pittsburgh Poetry Review. Fall, 2016.

"Scene with Tin Tan: El rey del barrio (1949)." Revista ARS. Número 10. 2016.

"Scene with Pancho: *The Cisco Kid* (1950-1956)." *The Wandering Song: Central American Writing in the United States.* Tia Chucha, 2017.

Dedication

To the actors who played the part and kept me company while my family was apart.

SCENES FROM THE GOLDEN ERA

Scene from Los olvidados (1950)

Forgotten (children)

My grandmother tightens her hands around mine when the gang of children robs a blind man. Forgotten children. To forget is to leave a pencil behind, to leave a house door open, to leave a light on inside a house. Forgotten are names, numbers. They are accidents of the mind.

My parents crossed when I started losing teeth. My memory of them is broken, chipped away. Neighbors used to tell me that they would come back with a bicycle, that they would ride back from a northern sky.

Then the talk of returning stopped. The wheel never made a circle. My head turns away from the screen. The children who steal who beg who cheat who punch back who lie who loot who pilfer who plunder who pirate who poach who leave the lights on do not forget. I whisper to myself, *They. I. Will not be forgotten. I. They.* Will not be (forgotten) children.