

COBIS Poetry Competition 2017
“My Country; How I See It”

Two hearts or two halves? (Venezuelan and Swedish)

How can one live with only half a body?
Half a mind, half a heart?
Half right here, creating memories, creating bonds
Half halfway across the world, remembering
memories, remembering bonds
Mourning

So I wake up, from troubled dreams
An unanswered question in my mind
Like a stabbing knife, breaking my heart in two
Where is that place where I belong?

Outside, in the darkness, crickets chirping, toads
cackling
The silence of the birds, waiting for the crack of
dawn
When all the world explodes into colour
To erupt into song

I can feel the warm sun wrapping its arms around
me
I can swim and bathe in pure blue, an endless
canvas
Speckled with waving algae, shiny pebbles,
coloured fish
The warm waters of my Caribbean sea

I can breathe the humid air of the tropical rainforest
I can hear the torrent of falling water
Coming down from the mountains
Where the Angels Falls are born

But I can also hear the howling of dogs
in the cold winter night
Smoothly pulling my sled over the soft clouds of
heaven
to amaze me with the Northern Lights
I can listen to the silence of the evergreen forest
Covered in snow and frost
I can feel the mild wind that greets my cheeks
And the snowflakes that cloud my eyes

I can feel the softness of the reindeer skin
I can find delight in a blueberry pie
The rush of happiness, my heart jumps in joy,
As I plunge into the cold Baltic sea

This is when I understand
There are two countries, two skies, two loves,
Two places to know, to feel, to grow,
Two countries to respect, two cultures to embrace
One heart that breaks in two with love

Two countries deep in my heart
Two countries in which I rejoice

Category B Runner Up
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