where are you from?

the first of many an endless inquisition

I am from Mexico.
you reply
hands in your lap, crossed and cautious

the confusion is mutual
mutilating
you don’t look like me and I don’t look like you

then speak Spanish.

the words hang in the air
suspended

all of us are too young to understand that color is not a prerequisite for citizenship

speak Spanish.

not a question
but a demand
saying
prove yourself to us
prove yourself to people who don’t know you

mixed messages manipulate

mutilating

this country is not yours yet
and yet
you aren’t seen as part of your home country either

you shake your head
look down at your lap
hands crossed and cautious

no llores, no llores, no llores
you tell yourself
see guys? I told you she doesn’t speak Spanish.