

# CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives

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Volume 3

Article 28

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2019

## N'de

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### Recommended Citation

Lopez, Mari (2019) "N'de," *CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives*: Vol. 3 , Article 28.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/courageouscuentos/vol3/iss1/28>



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# N'de

Marí Lopez

P R O V E IT.

Show us the card -validation of tribal identity.

Where is your origin?

“Kill the Indian, save the *man*.”

Show us the trauma -blood imprints in your genetics.

Innate submission -three steps behind him.

He- the creator?

- No, husband? -*man*.

Yet, she is the key to our survival.

A Chiricahua woman is strong and fearless

-nurture your kin, the *men*.

Their key to eradication, control of our wombs.

“We are *american* mija -*true americans*.”

“Grandpa Frank fought for our freedom.”

Freedom?

Of

love?

-*No*.

Freedom to *assimilate* for **survival**.

Standard family structure,

nuclear era tactic of *control*.

A destruction capable of conveying strength

-*american* muscle.

*american* by necessity

-hyper masculinity.

Binary notions

-of black and white.

Prove your difference,

bleed out Lozen's blood.

Kill the Indian

-erase the Indians.

Not a ghost,

I

am

*here,*

<sup>2</sup>Spirit

and

**P**

**R**

**O**

**U**

**D.**

Queerness on my sleeve,

let me roll it up,

reveal-

**I am N'de, not indian.**