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Ni De Aquí, Ni De Allá

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Ni De Aquí, Ni De Allá

By Brian Rodriguez Barroso

Ni De Aquí...

It was the summer of 2021 and like every other summer I was working with my dad and his crew of Latinxs, as usual working in landscaping and construction we were dirty and sweaty. My dad introduced me to his boss who seemed to stereotype all of us because of our appearance. I had been stereotyped a lot before but this one caught me off guard and hit me hard....

Dad: Hey this is my other son Brian, he speaks perfect English and can translate for us.

Boss: Does he really? No he doesn't, he doesn't look like he does.

Dad: Yeah he does, Dile algo.

Me: What do you want me to say?

Boss: Oh you can, I didn't think you could since your dad always brings around Hispanics that can't speak or understand English.

I firmly looked directly at him and turned my back to his judgmental stare and ignored his explanations of why he thought I could not speak English.

...Ni de Allá

Como un joven nacido en los Estados Unidos con sangre Mexicana, pero sin raíces que me aten personalmente a México yo me críe a un estilo americano. Así que mis familiares luego me estereotipan como güero por la forma en que me visto, por no comer chile, por preferir hablar el inglés sobre el español y porque las costumbres no me interesan. ¿Te molesta que te digan güero? Güero me dicen y yo solo los miro y me doy la media vuelta ignorando sus risas burlescas. ¡Porque al final yo soy único y nunca podrán hacer lo que yo hago!