

# CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives

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## 5:38 P.M.

Geneba Revuelta  
*Humboldt State University*

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5:38 p.m.

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## Geneba Revuelta

My grandmother is only fifty-four years old. Many people think she is young, and one would think that since she's not that old, her thinking might be different or even slightly different than people who are older than she is.

She was born in a rancho near Aguililla Michoacan, México whose name I cannot recall. She now has five kids, four of them are married and my uncle still lives with her. He is about a year younger than I am and he is the result of my grandmother's adventures when she was single and going out to the bailes.

My uncle's name is Helder, he and I were raised the same, yet different gender expectations were forced on us. All my life I asked my grandmother, Why? Why is it ok that he never picks up his own plate? Why was he the only one taught how drive, yet I, being the oldest, was not. Living with my grandma so that I might remain in the U.S. and hope to get a better education was raising a lot of questions for me. Why is he the only one able to go out with his friends at night? Why does he never even make his own meal or clean his room?

It wasn't fair. Her responses became less valid, less good enough, as I got older. "Porque él es el hombre de la casa," or "Porque te tienes que acostumbrar para cuando te cases." The preferential treatment towards him and the disregard of my existence, as a young and thriving woman, was always evident. I played sports, had a 4.0 GPA average, volunteered my time, and was involved with various clubs. My grandma would acknowledge that all I did was good – but it was expected from me because I'm a girl. If he did anything out of the ordinary, however, she would brag about it to her comadres. "¡Pues éste que trabajador me salió! ¡Ayer me cortó la yarda sin que yo le dijiera!"

5:37 p.m. the phone rings. I am now in college in my second semester and doing well academically. I receive a phone call from her. "You should come back you have responsibilities here too, remember, you're a woman and as a woman you are not fulfilling your duties."

5:39 p.m. Yes, I'm good. I really like it here at Humboldt State. It's great and I have a lot of friends. I was struggling with some schoolwork but I sought and received help and ended up doing okay. I am also playing lacrosse and my GPA is now a 3.7. It is not that great, but I'm trying.

5:38 p.m. The call was already over.