

from speculative Notes

you are ten years old and you are in the fourth grade you are obsessed with being defined as american you want to fit in wear the same clothes your family moves to a neighborhood your father is obsessed with chasing americans he says this new house is in a better neighborhood the ice cream truck does not drive through this neighborhood your father hates the music of ice cream trucks you meet new friends they are all white you get invited into their houses you watch cartoons in the afternoons their moms feed you snacks that you would never eat at home you are happy that you are finally fitting in your mother is happy that you are fitting in she wants to invite your friends over but you say no you think of asking your parents if you can change your name but you decide not to do it you think you are happy your friends make jokes and you laugh along it's not always comfortable but you laugh along your friend comes to your house and says his mom wants to see you you come over to his house and you are there in the living room with your three white friends his mom says someone took 5 dollars from my purse yesterday and you are standing in this living room you are scared even though you didn't take the 5 dollars your three white friends all deny taking the 5 dollars you deny taking the 5 dollars and his mother says something you don't understand she tells you to go home she leaves the room the next day you are walking to school with your three white friends they all accuse you of taking the 5 dollars but they don't tell you return it you are angry you are 10 yrs old and you want to cry you make it to your classroom without crying you are sitting in class the teacher is talking you can feel tears running down your face you start to cry you cry uncontrollably. your body starts to shake you're hitting your hand against the desk The black kid sitting next to you says mrs brooks he's crying for no reason the teacher is worried she does not know what to do she holds you by the shoulders you are shaking violently she hugs you she hugs you until your body goes limp she calls your mother from the office your mother comes to school she take you home she puts you to bed and you wake up the next morning and you are 45 yrs old you are reading a book and you remember this story