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## Vignettes of America

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AUDREY SPINA

This is the honey-dusted fig on a blue jeweled  
plate,  
white rice in a bowl, green peas and pistachio  
seeds smashed  
in a jar to serve our guests  
on a news-night so sour it ferments.

These are blankets tucked too tight for loose  
wriggling feet and blankets tucked too hastily  
so the bouncing quarter drops lazily  
at the center. Our parents are kind.

These are the roofs stolen clean  
so the stars are eaten straight  
from the bone. We wander without a home,  
cold permanently painting our skin.

These are the walls  
they say keep us safe,  
fear and delirium pumping  
our blood, where black mold blooms  
like cherry blossoms.

This is the empty, dusted plate,  
heavy air in a bowl, spider silk and famished  
bugs smashed  
by a jar to serve to no one  
on a hungry-night so regular it becomes

our American homes.

## About the Author

**Audrey Spina** is pursuing her Master of Arts in English. She plans to write a creative thesis under the mentorship of Dr. Sarah Fawn Montgomery in the fall of 2020. She hopes to teach at the high school or collegiate level.