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POEM IN ENGLISH

NATALIE SCENTERS-ZAPICO

LIMA LIMÓN :: MADUREZ

I wear a peineta & pin a mantilla to my hair
I want to be Conchita Piquer warning women
about becoming lemons. The goal: tener alguien
quien me quiera. I want to be my mother singing me
to sleep: A la lima y al limón, te vas quedar soltera.
My grandmother hated peinetas, mantillas & women
who wore too much gold. She'd say this pulling my hair
tight into a bun. She hated peinetas & mantillas:
Pero la necesidad obliga. I don't want to be the woman
whose skin dissolves into the caldos she makes
for her dying parents. That kind of woman cries alone
because she has no fat husband to make her cry
in a home of her own. A la lima y al limón, tú no tienes
quien te quiera. A la lima y al limón, te vas quedar soltera.