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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.