

2022 Santa Fe Reads, NEA Big Read Poetry Contest Winner

2nd Place
Emma Lewis

Enough

I pour my heart and soul
Into the food you eat
I pour every drop of blood, sweat, and tears
Into the dances for the songs you sing

And yet,
I am still not “Native” enough for you

I am “full-blooded”
But I didn’t grow up on the “Rez”
So it counts for nothing
Right?

My bloodline means nothing to you?
Just because I don’t speak as much as you?
I tried to learn, I did
But then I was ridiculed for being “behind”

And you still wonder why
Why people like me have lost hope of being accepted

We’re supposed to be family
All of us
Well if that’s true,
We’re a pretty damn dysfunctional one

Cause last I checked
Creator didn’t want this for us

THIS

This is the result of assimilation

THIS just shows that we've ALL adopted White Man's ways

THAT you cannot deny