Along the Border

-after Idra Novey

On a dirt road

On a drive to el campo

You found a batey

I cut the cane

We sucked on a stalk

You gave me your arms

I swam in the river

We locked the door

Then the lights went out

And the radio played

You fingered the pesos

I walked to the beach

We fried the fish

You ate the mango

I jumped in the water

We bought the flowers

Then the migrants came

And you bartered for more

Then the sirens blared

And they were carried away

But we didn't stop them

Then the ocean swept

And the palm trees sagged

They were foreigners

We were foreigners

And we lived there

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Jasminne Mendez is a Dominican-American poet, educator, playwright and award winning author. Mendez has had poetry and essays published in numerous journals and anthologies. She is the author of two multi-genre collections *Island of Dreams* (Floricanto Press, 2013) which won an International Latino Book Award, and *Night-Blooming Jasmin(n)e: Personal Essays* and Poetry (Arte Publico Press, 2018). Her debut poetry collection *Machete* will be released in 2022 (Noemi Press). Her debut picture book *Josefina's Habichuelas* (Arte Público Press) will be released in 2021. She is an MFA graduate of the creative writing program at the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University and a University of Houston alumni.