BRUISE OF A BEAUTIFUL SHADE

I was the most beautiful shade I could ever be
And still I was not your favorite color
If content were married with a false idol of love,
We were deep in it

Bizarre phenomena happening along the way
Isolation that took place of belonging
I on the floor, pressed cheek to cold tile
Waiting for you in the waiting room of the 51/50 holding cell
Disturbed that you walked over 20 miles late at night
Breaking up atop the stairs because I didn't make sense for you
Waiting every night on the other end of the computer screen

And all of you, I was not the right shade for
For what could blush pink do
To fit into the darkest shades of the world?

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Jess Saravia (she/ her/ ella) is an award winning Two-Spirit, Xicana femme multimedia artist with lineage from around the world. She is the daughter of a single immigrant mother who initially sparked her love of writing and all things whimsical. She writes about and is a student of spirituality, nature and death. Her first solo poetry collection "Euthanasia" was released July 2025 by Daxson Publishing and she is currently working on the manuscript for her second book, "Revenge Words". She holds Dual M.A.s in English and Cultural Studies from Claremont Graduate University, Dual B.A. 's in English and Chicane/x/a Studies from University of California, Riverside.