Frank Báez

Todas las navidades recibíamos los regalos
que nos enviaban desde los Estados Unidos.

Barbies, carritos a control remoto, nintendos.
Libros, comics, casetes y videos.

Para vacaciones nos enviaban zapatos, ropa,
tenis de marca y guantes de pelota.

Hasta teníamos los cubrecamas de El hombre araña.
Desde la infancia nuestra vida estuvo subtitulada.

Todo era una preparación para cuando emigráramos.
Sentados en las marquesinas, esperábamos.

Each Christmas we received presents
they sent us from the United States.

Barbies, remote control cars, Nintendos,
books, Gameboys, cassettes, and video tapes.

For vacation, they sent shoes, clothing,
brand name sneakers and baseball gloves.

We even had Spider Man comforters.
Ever since childhood our life had subtitles.

Everything was a prepping for when we would immigrate.
Seated in driveways, we waited.

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Photo by Yolanda Castaño

Frank Báez (Dominican Republic, 1978) has published six books of poetry, a short story collection, and three nonfiction books. In 2017 he was selected for the Hay Festival as a member of Bogotá39, the list of the best Latin American writers under forty years of age. His last poetry book it's *The End of the World Came to My Neighborhood.*