THE SUBURBS
BY VINCENT RENDONI

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I'm always trying to get back
here, a home too cavernous
for our family to afford
& didn't.

Father
coming home
with a bucket of KFC.

Mother
uncorking the Sprite,
christening the linoleum.

Sister
tapping the remote control
screaming at the unplugged television.

Father
saying *honey,*
there's no battery.

Father
eye caught on
the empty screen.

A show playing
in his head—

A sitcom
where nothing ever goes wrong.

Father
mouthing
wow, wow,
isn't this something.

Author

Vincent Antonio Rendoni is the author of *Dead Chicano Mixtape* (Red Hen Press, 2027) and *A Grito Contest in the Afterlife* (Catamaran, 2022), winner of the Catamaran Poetry Prize as selected by Dorianne Laux. His work has appeared in the Academy of American Poets Poem-a-Day Series, *AGNI*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Copper Nickel*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Pleiades*. He lives in White Center, WA.

Artist

Adriana Quezada is a San Diego-based illustrator who studied graphic design at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City, where she was born. She has published four books and her illustrations have appeared in dozens of magazines in Mexico City, Brazil, and England. Her website is: adrianaquezada.com.