



2020

If I Had a Dime

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Recommended Citation

Lopez, Franchesca (2020) "If I Had a Dime," *AWE (A Woman's Experience)*: Vol. 7, Article 11.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/awe/vol7/iss1/11>

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If I had a dime

I heard someone say on the phone last week that Asian people are annoying,
I heard someone say people from Brazil are weird for wanting to be white,
 twenty cents
I felt you tense and walk further out of your way,
 thirty
you assumed I was on food stamps,
 forty
Trump tweeted,
 fifty
someone retweeted,
 sixty
the white boy in Sunday school justified slavery,
and someone in my class told me about how her mom went to church
and the first thing said to her was a white woman asking, “why are you
here? for the help?”
 as if we aren’t all.
 eighty
a woman told me I would go to prison if I attacked her,
you assumed I ate rice and beans.
 a dollar.

I am rich counting the coins I wish would stay in your pockets. I never
wanted to come here,

 I mean I did want to come here,
but I didn’t want to come here.
Because I didn’t know that this is where here was.

 I want to go home.
 I can’t go home.
 My home is here.
and it is not safe, but nowhere is safe, nowhere is home.

a guard in Nepal told me I couldn't enter with my white group members.
a Canadian border patrol officer didn't believe my mother was mine.
a Mexican customs agent asked my father to pull over. to step outside
the vehicle. to answer a few questions.

yes sir

no sir

okay sir

more coins clink in my palm

I don't want to be here. I don't want these coins. It is too hard.