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Mother and Son Discuss Politics

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The boy who will die watches his mother slap arepas into hot oil. “Mamá, can you hear the Revolution?” the boy asks. He scratches the back of a mutt at his feet, throws him a bone.

“Sí, hijo,” she mumbles, spinning the sizzling moons of corn. The dog cracks his bone, loudly, pries out the marrow in pieces. The boy persists. “Will the Revolution change our lives?” He sits on a chair in front of the window. His mother stares at his silhouette in the light. “Doubtful,” she whispers.

She thinks her son should not ask such questions. She starts to tell him so and then the snicker of bullets.

—Trenton L. Hickman

“Mother and Son Discuss Politics” received honorable mention in the 1995 BYU Studies Poetry Contest.