

Two Worlds

- (1) Bi-lingual, Bi-cultural
able to slip from "How's life"
to "*M'estan volviendo loca,*"
able to sit in a paneled office
- (5) drafting memos in smooth English,
able to order in fluent Spanish
at a Mexican restaurant,
American but hyphenated,
viewed by anglos as perhaps exotic,
- (10) perhaps inferior, definitely different,
viewed by Mexican as alien
(their eyes say, "You may speak
Spanish but you're not like me")
an American to Mexicans
- (15) a Mexican to Americans
a handy token
sliding back and forth
between the fringes of both worlds
by smiling
by masking the discomfort
of being pre-judged
- (22) Bi-laterally.

Line 3: They are driving me crazy

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by Stephanie D. Colquitt

- (1) Bi-lingual, Bi-cultural
able to be open, charismatic, and loud
while having to use my inside voice
as I respect others' personal space
- (5) able to kiss, hug, intimately greet
as well as nod when
they saw "How's it goin"
as they walk away,
able to sing my heart out in Spanish
- (10) surrounded by friends and strangers alike,
Dominican-Haitian-American
one of three intricate parts,
some days one of the thirds overpower
the two others
- (15) quickly reminded that one can't stand on its own
perceived by *estadounidenses* as one that
slowly but surely is climbing the ladder of success,
assimilation,
viewed by Latinos as a *morena*
- (20) that's losing her flavor
between the chasm that
joins and splits my two domains
by resisting to conform
- (25) as I debunk preconceived notions,
discover, grow, and explore
embracing all parts with
dignidad, certeza y orgullo
Afro-Latina that spreads and evolves
in one world, two worlds, all depending on the context.

Line 16: An American

Line 19: Black/Brown girl

Line 28: Dignity, certainty, pride