

## Remember

by  
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Long silver earrings dangled against her aged cheeks

*“Recuerde, Remember chiquitas.”*

*“This magic only lasts as long as you belief.”*

With spotted hands Señora Rosario gathered her ruby cape closer to her body

*“Stop believing and the spell is gone.”*

*Recuerde, Remember*

As her shaking fingers lowered the pale blue beads over my head

Beads that stung cool against my naked neck

Yours were green, like the color of a square chiclet

*Recuerde, Remember*

We ran on eight year old legs clutching the beads so the magic would not escape

Across the steamy cement sidewalk, past Señor Molina’s vegetable stand

Like runaway crickets we ran and jumped

Until we found our place

The shady stoop colored muddy and brick

*“We are magic now. Should we tell the others?”*

*“No.” I hushed.*

Maybe I was selfish, but this magic was mine for no one else.

*“We need our magic, we must save it”*

Save it for times that are bad

For days that are not kind

*Recuerde, Remember*

You left in a big brown car stacked with boxes and memories

You left with your magic

I stood clinging to Mami with hair in my eyes

She waved for us both a forever goodbye

My stomach was heavy

Now I was alone

*Recuerde, Remember*

The evenings traveled by

Disturbing the night like a string of festival lights

With dreamy sleeping murmurs I forgot to believe

And the magic faded

Unused and disregarded

Laid to rest in a scarred yellow box

Banished away with all the other lost charms