

## **Cheyenne Dakota Williams**

### **Heritage Diner**

At the diner                      three little indians                      sit horizontally  
                                         to each other                      at the bar seats.  
Two from Shiprock              who have known each other              sit left and right.  
                                         The only one                      not from the rez  
sits in the middle.              They are facing the kitchen              as they watch  
                                         the food being                      cooked on the stove.  
One of the Shiprock              girls recounts in familiarity              her job at  
                                         the chapterhouse                      cooking for the elderly.  
The girl not from                      the rez has never worked              like that  
                                         before and instead                      recalls the time her  
mother left the rez                      right out of high school              and worked  
                                         fast food at KFC                      at 5 AM each morning.  
Among the chatter                      of a busy diner she hears              Fleetwood  
                                         Mac and tells the                      two Shiprock girls of  
a now defunct                      restaurant back in the                      eighties  
                                         called Flakey Jake's                      which is just like  
Fuddruckers                      only they got to survive.                      Anyways  
                                         around the afternoon                      when there was nobody  
Elton John's                      "I Guess That's Why They                      Call It  
                                         The Blues" would start                      to play and now when  
that song comes                      on that's all her mother                      thinks of  
                                         is working during                      those mundane hours of  
the day in cheaper                      Tempe Arizona.                      Shiprock  
                                         Girl tells the not so                      rez girl that one day she would  
like to open a café                      on her family's                      land  
                                         with the orchards                      and all the pretty scenery too.  
Not So Rez Girl                      wonders if it's hard                      to start a  
                                         business on the rez                      because nothing seems to  
last that long there                      anyways or maybe                      because  
                                         nobody seems to                      have money these days.  
"They have money!"                      Shiprock Girl                      exclaims.  
                                         Not So Rez Girl                      watches the hashbrowns and  
omelettes cook on                      the stove and                      thinks about  
                                         how when her                      mother was pregnant with her  
older brother she                      met her mother                      in law  
                                         for the first time                      standing by the stove telling  
her how young she                      was and that she                      should have  
                                         done a little bit                      more with her life.  
So then Not So Rez                      Girl asks the Shiprock                      Girls how they  
                                         would like to                      be twenty-two and

pregnant with a man      ten years older than them.      They are not sure  
                                          what to say.      Being at the  
 wayback diner reminds      Not So Rez Girl      of the signs  
                                          that read      WHITES ONLY  
 during the Jim Crow      days that her grandmother      lived through and  
                                          how one      day she went in  
 one and came out with      the wrong order for her      colored cousin.  
                                          She tells      her that she was  
 lucky that she could      even go in there and      order food for her  
                                          in the first      place and to just eat  
 the food anyways.      She was passing if      you couldn't see  
                                          by now.      The three little indians  
 begin to eat their      food that is finally ready      now except Not  
                                          So Rez      Girl is having trouble  
 finishing her food      as fast as the Shiprock Girls      are eating theirs.  
                                          Instead      she just sits there  
 and decides to take      the leftovers back with her.      Perhaps she wasn't  
                                          as      hungry as she thought  
 she was and instead      just needed to be reminded      of something  
                                          she      hadn't thought of in a while.