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## Scattered Mementos of My Life

Luisa Rodríguez Connal

*The University of Arizona*, [luisa.stardancer@gmail.com](mailto:luisa.stardancer@gmail.com)

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Luisa Rodríguez Connal  
Workshop for Rex Veeder's  
Survive and Thrive

## Scattered Mementos of My Life

Photos scattered round the house  
Hold memories. Cold memories  
Warm me.

Trips to the past teach love and  
My core being. Yesterday playful  
Surrounded by family and friends.

*Mi abuelo con sus brazos al redeador de abuela's sintura.*  
Possessive of her despite the aging both share.  
I remember him differently. Sitting me on his lap  
Teaching me to pet a chicken.  
Teaching me to feed them.  
Photo of me on vacation dressed  
In broad straw hat and pants with a hole in knee  
Holding a pitch fork  
Large flowers in my hair.  
Mi *mirada* mimics Abuela's look.

Luisita y Margie, cousins  
white stiff wide bows  
on their heads. Standing  
side by side.  
The shorter one *seems* shy.

Rock and roll came along I look at mementos  
A hound dog with a big guitar by its side.

Mementos long lost: 45 records and LP at 33/13 and  
The Old lost through moves to many new places  
Those are scattered with the winds of moves to new places  
Only a few remain.  
Yet new music forms and much music still abound.

Little owls adorn a shelf—my daughter thinks I'm an owl.  
So a big owl recently arrived—it sits away from the originals.

Each night I say goodnight to the surviving mementos.  
Goodnight young Luisa

Goodnight Abuelo y Abuela  
Goodnight to Mamí y Papí  
Loved ones from the past still present in my heart.