Looking The Part

By Gabriella Aliaga

Life has always felt split in half

The race that everyone saw

The race that everyone ignored

My family is Japanese

They're strict

They’re the most polite

They make the best homemade mochi

My family is Latino

Family always comes first

They’re extremely honest

They’re the hardest workers

So if I know so much

Why do you still deny me?

I live my life in culture

Yet you tell me I haven’t

I don’t look the part

So you say I’m a liar

My straight black hair and smaller eyes tell you one story

But my heritage tells you other

Don’t tell me it doesn’t count

Don’t put me in one box

Don’t tell me I don’t belong

I’m biracial

You don’t think I fit the part?

Well I know I do