

## **All Your Pretty Words**

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## "His Story," Sandra Cisneros

I was born under a crooked star.

So says my father.

And this perhaps explains his sorrow.

An only daughter

whom no one came for

and no one chased away.

It is an ancient fate.

A family trait we trace back

to a great aunt no one mentions.

Her sin was beauty.

She lived mistress.

Died solitary.

There is a well

the cousin with the famous

how shall I put it?

profession.

She ran off with the colonel.

And soon after,

the army payroll.

And, of course,

grandmother's mother

who died a death of voodoo.

There are others.

For instance,

my father explains,

in the Mexican papers

a girl with both my names

was arrested for audacious crimes

that began by disobeying fathers.

Also, and here he pauses,

the Cubano who sells him shoes

says he too knew a Sandra Cisneros

who was three times cursed a widow.

You see.

An unlucky fate is mine

to be born woman in a family of men.

Six sons, my father groans,

all home.

And one female,

gone.

27 NOTES SANDRA CISNEROS

@YOURPRETTYWORDS

Rain - apoemaday: by Jack Gilbert Suddenly this defeat. This rain. The blues gone gray And the browns gone gray And...

https://t.co/X5ZWFONowk

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firstfullmoon: Derrick Austin, "Lilting" [ID in alt text] https://t.co/ag8aPOjSvc

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"What Kind of Times Are These," Adrienne Rich There's a place between two stands of trees where the grass grows uph... https://t.co/fUJhbsKKt6 "The best which has been thought and said in the world."

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