

Raul Dorado

(I wrote this in the public housing class, but never turned it in)

Effectively Othered

I am but one of many others
Merely existing in a colony of exclusion X27

I am barricaded by fear driven rhetoric
Facts fail, lies prevail

I am on the shelf of this Amazonian distribution center
Forgotten, stale like attic cardboard

I am res judicada — issue waived
Procedurally defaulted from life, liberty, and that other world

I am free labor in an unjust system of hourly wage
An alchemy of sorts
Where the heralded blue collared worker exploits black and brown

I am where nothing but the locks work in this raggedy muthafucka
The other public housing

I am in the manacles of Friday the 13th Amendment
This horror flick and the face of a kinder, gentler killer

I am shriveling like a prune
Death by incarceration nipping at my heels

I am the other-other
Othered