

# Born In Puerto Rico

Paul Simon

I was born in Puerto Rico  
We came here when I was a child  
Before I reached the age of sixteen  
I was runnin' with the gang and we were wild  
He keeps lookin' but he don't recognize me  
Some guy from Lexington or Park  
Red beans and rice from kitchen windows  
It's supper time and the barrio is dark  
No one knows you like I do  
Nobody can know your heart the way I do  
No one can testify to all that you've been through  
But I will  
I was born in Puerto Rico and my blood is Taino  
Spanish Caribbean, my soul  
We came here wearing summer clothes in winter  
Hearts of sunshine in the cold  
Your family rented this apartment  
You'd watch the street lamps from your perch  
In the sacramental hour, your stepfather in black  
Preached the fire of the Pentecostal Church  
No one knows you like I do  
Nobody can know your heart the way I do  
No one to testify to all that you've been through  
But this will  
I was born in Puerto Rico  
Came here when I was a child  
Small change and sunlight  
Then I left these streets for good  
My days as short as they were wild  
Your features blurred in every grainy photo  
And fading headline of the Daily News  
Wiltwyck School for Criminal Children  
Auburn, Brooklyn House of D  
Dannemora, Sing Sing, Attica, Greenhaven  
Twenty years inside, today you're free  
You cannot even read your story  
The pages piling up in shame  
Before the words released you  
The guard would kill the light

The night you took The Capeman for your name

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