



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

DANIEL A. BISUANO is an actor, writer, poet, and advocate. He continues to pursue his dream and his creative goals, as well as empowering his community through his advocacy work. Daniel has been an advocate for ten years and has worked with and been a part of organizations like Homeboys Industries, Arts for Healing Justice Network, California Justice Leaders, and Inside Out Writers. Daniel continues to strive to not only better himself but also his community around him. Having spent seven years in the justice system as a youth, he has a strong passion for the empowerment and advocacy of the formerly incarcerated community. Living as a former foster youth, Daniel believes that many different communities intertwine and has a strong passion for creating awareness and change amongst each one. Currently, Daniel has his own radio show and podcast called *Chicos Chisme*, where he uplifts the voices of the community in Los Angeles. Daniel is currently also working as a producer on a film in partnership with Represent Justice and hopes to continue to advocate and create change through his creativity.

PRIDE

PART 1

I remember a day not long ago.

Peaceful protest as I hid the dolls I played with under my toy chest.

Pride to me is another word for accept.

Accept circumstances, accept the fact that we are people too.

*See, my past life was a nightmare, waking up in cold sweats,
always fearing what's next.*

See, I could not accept who I was, I had no pride in what was.

Resorted to gang banging and drugs.

Every day seemed to be a facade.

*See, people like us have to fight for what we believe in,
constantly discriminated against for being us.*

See, my expiration date was 18, couldn't see past that.

Please don't judge me, this is a journey where I had to find humility.

*See, my people constantly find the dream even in the darkness,
pride is more than acceptance, it's life and its lessons,
it's what you been blessed with.*

Glitter-covered chest fits are the best fits.

Step into success and own you because you are the best.

*Pride is the fact that we are happy to be alive,
to be ourselves, to not fear what others think.*

*So go and wear your crop top, please be whoever you were meant
to be because me, I'm tired of being what society wants.*

*It's time to top this s*** off and pop off, show the world
what we are all about, without a doubt, we are kings
and queens and everything in between.*



PART 2

Another nightmare.

Wake up screaming in cold sweats.

I used to think a jail cell would be my best.

Now I wear my rainbow-colored vest.

See, the life I lived was not really living.

I was giving in to how other people thought I should be living.

Bible giving.

God, please forgive me for my sinning when

I'm myself I feel like I'm winning.

They told me to never give in.

Hot jails got me sweating.

Is this really living?

I am tired of giving in to the harsh realities my people face daily.

If I was a straight white man, they would praise me daily.

Now they call me crazy for something they do daily.

I can't even hold my partner's hand without them looking at me crazy.

I guess this world really isn't rainbows and daisies.

Oh wait. Wait, maybe I'm looking at it all wrong.

*See, I don't rap or sing songs, but I know I'd be wrong not to
tell you how amazing this life is, even with the crazy.*

See, that crazy made me.

*No matter how much my community endures, we still prevail,
stepping our way towards the rainbow even when we are in hell.*

*I see the funniest stuff wear a trash bag, call it high fashion and strut,
find happiness in things other people don't give a d*** about.*

We created community even when our heads were filled with self-doubt.

This is pride, and I am proud to be a gay Latino man. ■