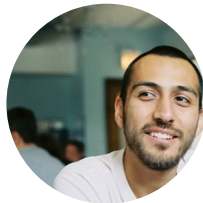


# Holding Court

By Jacob Saenz

Today I became King  
of the Court w/out a diamond-  
encrusted crown thrust upon  
my sweaty head. Instead  
my markings of royalty  
were the t-shirt draping  
my body like a robe soaked  
in champagne & the pain  
in my right knee — a sign  
of a battle endured, my will  
tested & bested by none  
as the ball flew off my hands  
as swift as an arrow toward  
the heart of a target — my fingers  
ringless yet feeling like gold.

Source: *Poetry* (May 2014)



Poet and editor Jacob Saenz was born in Chicago and raised in Cicero, Illinois. He earned a BA in creative writing from Columbia College in Chicago. His first collection of poetry, *Throwing the Crown* (Copper Canyon Press, 2018), was awarded the 2018 American Poetry Review/Honickman First Book Prize. Saenz has been an editor at *Columbia Poetry Review* and an associate editor at *RHINO*. He works as an acquisitions assistant at the Columbia College library and has read his poetry at a number of Chicago venues. A CantoMundo fellow, he has also been the recipient of a Letras Latinas Residency Fellowship and a Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship.

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