

# Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream



Book Prize Four undocumented Mexican American students, two great teachers, one robot-building contest ... and a major motion picture In 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They were born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high school. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to much—but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot. And build a robot they did. Their robot wasn't pretty, especially compared to those of the competition. They were going up against some of the best collegiate engineers in the country, including a team from MIT backed by a \$10,000 grant from ExxonMobil. The Phoenix teenagers had scraped together less than \$1,000 and built their robot out of scavenged parts. This was never a level competition—and yet, against all odds ... they won! But this is just the beginning for these four, whose story—which became a key inspiration to the DREAMers movement—will go on to include first-generation college graduations, deportation, bean-picking in Mexico, and service in Afghanistan. Joshua Daviss Spare Parts is a story about overcoming insurmountable odds and four young men who proved they were among the most patriotic and talented Americans in this country—even as the

country tried to kick them out.

Dead on Revival Main menu Skip to content Home About the Blog About the Blogger The Alphabet The List Sleep now; fear human nature tomorrow POSTED ON FEBRUARY 16, 2016 Ive had this blog for nearly a decade. Fuck. POSTED IN LIFE A Prayer POSTED ON NOVEMBER 27, 2015 You are, of course, too much I am easily tired and slow Where you run on for days without rest: The God of ultra-marathons and Bolt Who still jogs beside me on my 12-minute mile Where you work without end: The Messenger for Gods without rest or relent Who pulls me to my feet on 14 hour shifts Where you laugh without reserve: The Prankster who steals their best friends cows Who reminds me that may it harm none we all need to have fun Where you lead: The Guide today until death Who rides beside me on long sleepy nights Enagonius, Poneomenos, Mechanotes, Diaktoros Transcendent and eternal You called to me and I fall at your feet I thank you, Lord Hermes, for your blessings and your indulgence as I find my way on your path POSTED IN LIFE TAGGED DRU TALKS GODS, HELLENIC POLYTHEIST, HERMES, POLYTHEISM, PRAYER Drunk Advice From A God POSTED ON NOVEMBER 3, 2015 2 the days are pouring nectar down my throat so thick and sweet that it makes my teeth brittle in exhalation to life and he tastes like spiced wine, in-toxicating and scalding as he elevates me the way a lift carries you as high as you ask it as high as its able He laughs: Burn Your Feet flying through inexorable hours you once spent languishing in despondence Reach out with both your hands for Death and screech your joy when She recoils, smiling POSTED IN LIFE TAGGED DEVOTIONAL STUFF, DRU BLOGS, HERMES, MY STUFF, PERSONAL, POETRY, WRITING Eirwyn p1 POSTED ON JULY 8, 2015 Once upon a time, in a land bordered by a lush, dark wood, there ruled the kind but simple king, Gwirion. Fortunately for his kingdom his young queen, Bywyd was as sharp as he was dull. She advised him in all matters of state, and benevolently attended concerned citizens and visiting dignitaries alike, always with a graceful nod to her husband and a quiet "May it please your Majesty." So it was that they ruled in peace for many years troubled only by the lack of Ysbryd-ane an heir to carry on the divine dragon blood of Gwirions ancestors. When Bywyd found herself full with child at last she rejoiced that their kingdom would be secured, their rule assuredly peaceful for the rest of their lives. And when the child was born, with raven black hair so dark against eyes as blue as lightning and skin as pale as snow, they called her Eirwyn and raised her to understand the five aspects of the dragon that she must ever personify to rule her people. Before her sixth birthday, Eirwyn was already tired of the dusty words she had learned by rote. POSTED IN WRITING TAGGED BLOG, CAMP NANOWRIMO, FAIRY TALE, FEEDBACK PLZ?, WRITING vibrato POSTED ON JULY 8, 2015 OK. Im shaking apart inside Tremors that are too fine to be seen or felt Maybe i can hear them though? If I listen v carefully Cool. Im not really sure why. Maybe minds are meant to fall apart when theyre as delicately stitched together as mine? Ooh or Im picking at the metaphorical seams because Im just so godsdamned bored! Yas. Lets make this an intentional thing Consequences of choices are always easier to stomach Even if theyre shitty Mm. Learn to trust your audience, right? Youre all such bright young things. Your capable and endlessly receptive. Just Like me. POSTED IN WRITING TAGGED IT JUST SEEMS ARROGANT TO CAPITALISE YOUR OWN ME, NOT SORRY, POETRY, SORRY Post navigation†• Older posts Subscribe Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email. Join 791 other followers Enter your email address click here to subscribe There was an error retrieving images from Instagram. An attempt will be remade in a few minutes. Twitter Error: Twitter did not respond. Please wait a few minutes and refresh this page. Information This blog was founded by Dru Saxton and Lu Thatcher in February of 2007. Please click About the Blog for more information. 1, 443 posts have been published on this blog since its inception. Blog posts are regularly archived and removed. These archives are available for purchase. Please contact Dru for more information. Updated: May 4, 2012 - 22:35 CDT

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