Christmas in Mercado, 2006

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Two crooked concrete steps on the corner of two winding cobblestone roads beside houses painted but faded into the years, and the stories I’d hear about this little town where the words don’t make sense but the smiles feel the same and the fires are warmer this time of December.

Frozen marble steps wrap around my history, my home these faces I’ve known but haven’t touched until Christmas in Mercalo.

I cried when I left and I knew what you meant when you said that my Nona’s father could never say goodbye when he knew there wouldn’t be another hello or another Christmas in Mercalo.