Katie Miller Video Transcript

Hi. My name's Katie Miller and I wrote the poem titled "Ravenous" that's being published in the Ridgeline Review. Just to give a little background on "Ravenous" before I do a reading for it - the poem came out of a Creative Writing class that I took at NMSU last fall. The [prompt that] inspired to write this poem was to go find a specific location and to write a poem that encompassed and embodied the atmosphere and emotions and feelings of that location without directly saying so within the poem. And, so I chose the park La Llorona in Las Cruces, New Mexico, which is a basis for the legend of La Llorona, the wailing woman who will pull you into the river or... there's multiple versions of it.

Anyways, um... something else inspired this poem is that there's an overpass at this park where people would cross over the Rio Grande in their cars. And attached to the overpass was this old wooden swing that just had a couple of ropes hanging down from the overpass, and it just looked very mysterious and kind of creepy, and that's just what I took as my inspiration for this poem and inspired me to continue to write it and to turn it into what it is now.

So, this is "Ravenous." Two ropes are knotted to the bridge above, over the bones of the Rio Grande connected by a shared board. Invisible hands push it forward; gravity pulls it back There are giggles... or is that the wind? It calls you... or is that a coyote? It is still; the air is silent. A chill grabs your shoulder, leading you to the river. You think it was just the wind however, the air is hushed; there is still giggling but you realize you're in a desert… Alone.