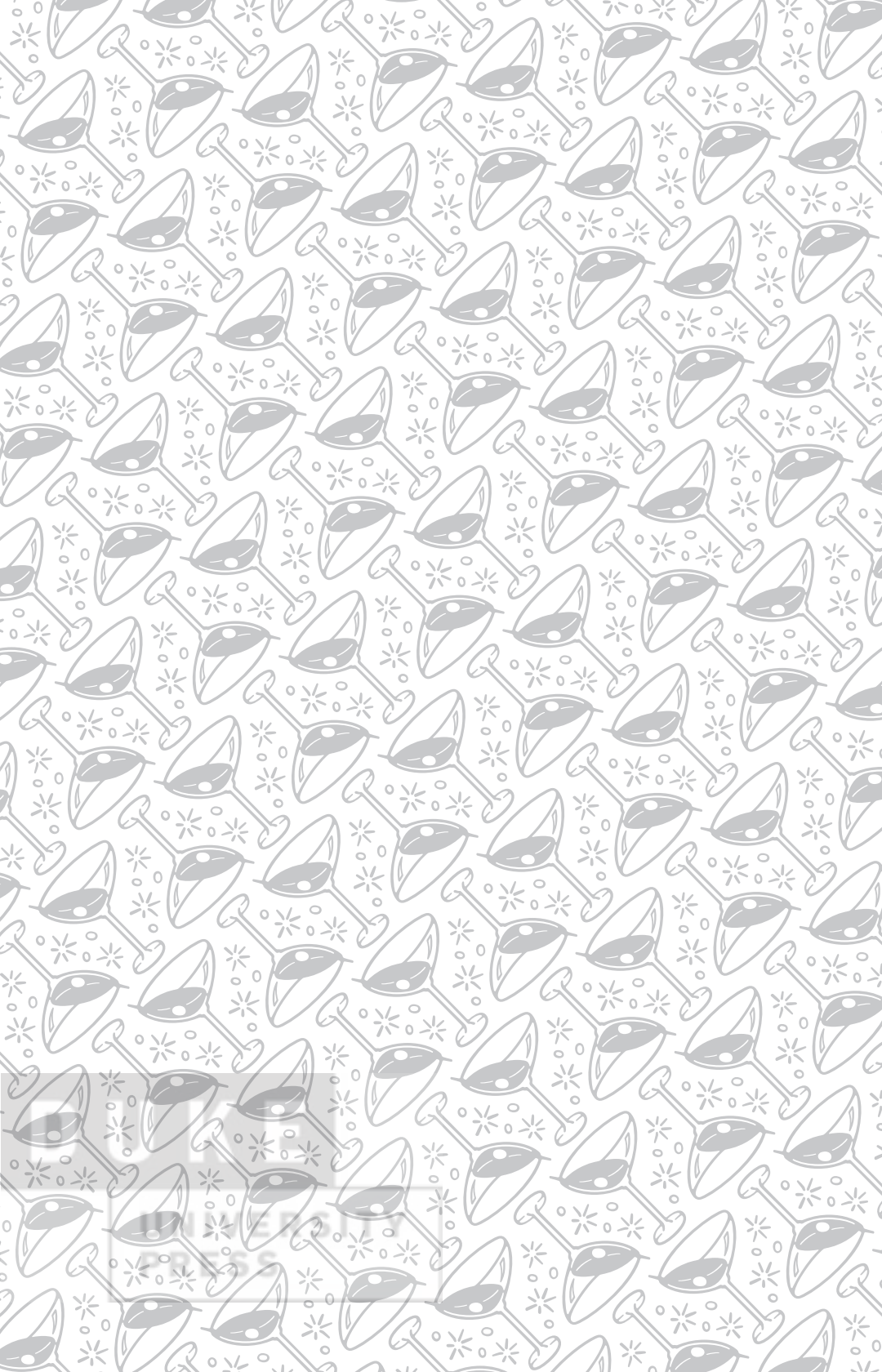
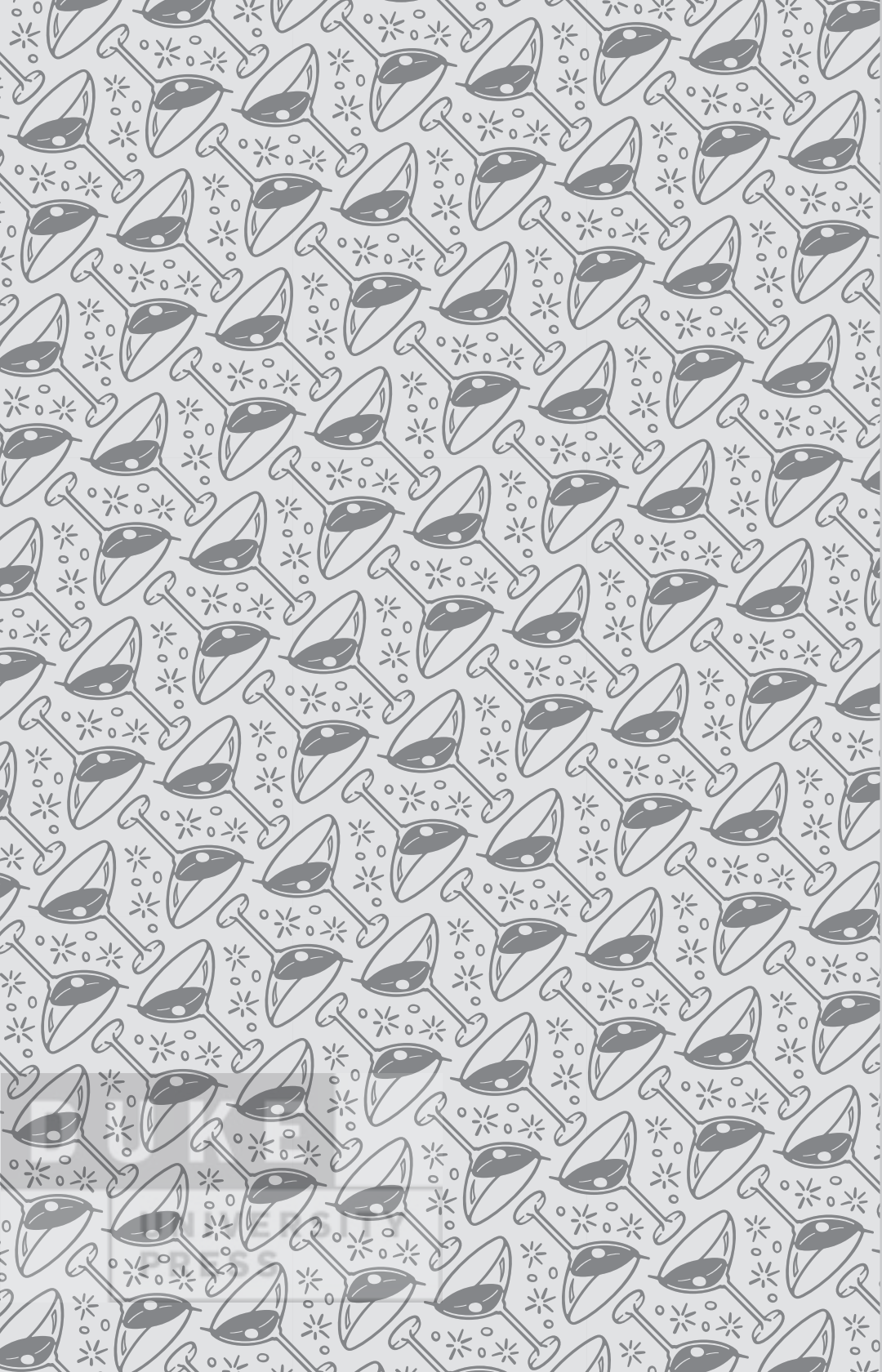




THE CHASERS

**RENATO
ROSALDO**





The Chasers

DUKE

UNIVERSITY
PRESS

DUKE

**UNIVERSITY
PRESS**





THE CHASERS

Renato Rosaldo

DUKE

UNIVERSITY
PRESS

DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS • DURHAM AND LONDON • 2019

© 2019 DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS

All rights reserved

Printed in the United States of America on
acid-free paper ∞

Designed by Matthew Tauch

Typeset in Garamond Premier Pro

by Westchester Publishing Services

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Rosaldo, Renato, author.

Title: The chasers

Description: Durham : Duke University Press, 2019. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018050152 (print) |

LCCN 2018059394 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781478005643 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781478004189 (hardcover : alk. paper) |

ISBN 9781478004776 (pbk. : alk. paper)

Subjects: | LCGFT: Poetry.

Classification: LCC PS3618.O775 (ebook) |

LCC PS3618.O775 C44 2019 (print) |

DDC 811/.6—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov>

/2018050152

Cover art: Photo of Chasers members, *Tucsonian*,

Tucson High School, 1959

DUKE

UNIVERSITY
PRESS

To the memory of

MY FATHER, RENATO ROSALDO;

MY MOTHER, BETTY POTTER ROSALDO;

MY GRANDMOTHER, MAMA EMILIA

DUKE

**UNIVERSITY
PRESS**

Contents

	PRELUDE	xi
	CAST OF CHARACTERS	xiii
I	Walnuts	3
	Never Chicano Enough	5
	Suddenly Blank	7
	Nice Meals	8
	Down the Little Arroyo	9
	Never Dreamed	11
	A Dark Side	13
	Talking with Mom	16
	Fastest Naked Sprinter	19
	In the Cactus Chronicle	21
	The Chaser Mystique	23

DUKE

UNIVERSITY
PRESS

II	Playing Ball	27
	Sports People	29
	All about Fun	31
	A Quiet Guy	34
	In Formation	35
	Champagne in a Martini Glass	37
	White, Black, or Blue	41
	My Inner Mexican Comes In	42
	No More Oranges	45
	No Emblem	46
	Ode to Ralph	48
	I'd Like the Job	50
 III	 Not from Tucson	 55
	Ornamental Oranges	57
	I Never Liked You	60
	A Place to Stand	62
	Fiftieth Reunion	64
	I Was Shaking	69
	Three Months Older	71

DUKE

UNIVERSITY
PRESS

	Guys on One Side	73
	In the School Yard	75
	Erased	76
	You Won't Do Well	77
IV	Observing	83
	Never a Fighter	85
	Papá y yo hablamos	86
	Dad and I Talk	87
	You Were or Were Not	89
	Raw Eggs	90
	My Brother Raúl	92
	I Remember	93
	An Old Story	97
	I Am a Chaser	99
	My Dad Died When I Was Six	101
	Packager	103
	Sure Hope We Can Enjoy a Few More Years	107

	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	109
--	-----------------------	-----

DUKE

**UNIVERSITY
PRESS**

Prelude

How to imagine the Chasers? A band of twelve high school guys, more club than gang. Their jackets made them visible at Tucson High, 1956–1959.

Eleven were Mexican-American, one Jewish. Ethnicity was trumped. You were or were not a Chaser.

I was a Chaser.

You're about to read an auto-ethnography. It's personal. It's about what it meant to be a Chaser, how it sustained us, how we sustained us, how they sustained me.

It could be seen as historical ethnography, a portrait of a small group, except that the purpose of what I learned through participant-observation was not social description.

It was personal.

DUKE

UNIVERSITY
PRESS

My intention was to go native, become Mexican-American, not to write it up. To deepen my humanity. And I did.

After meeting up for our fiftieth Tucson High School reunion, we Chasers remembered what we never forgot, what we held close, the people and places we never let go.

Little wonder that, once we resumed, we couldn't stop gathering, looking back, unforgetting.

Poetry revived memories of my feelings. Personal losses gave me vital perceptions. Collective recollections of bygone camaraderie opened me to this book.

DUKE

xii • THE CHASERS
UNIVERSITY
PRESS