Women maintain. Daily, clean the house, dust empty bedrooms, iron embroidered kerchiefs.

Women bear children, this life. Carry it with them. Feed it with their breasts.

Change diapers, wipe noses, help with homework, cushion broken hearts, maintain presence.

Bring up. Keep up.

Women maintain. Weekly, behold the disappeared. The birthed and the stolen etched into these ironed kerchiefs.

For 10, 20, 30 days, years, more, women silently circle their stories of elevators invading still nights.

Of false charges, absent addresses, suspended hopes.

Women bear children, their presence, their disappearances.

The daily work of witness women maintain, bear, behold.

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