Bluebeard’s Wives

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A face I never expected to see
in a place for women
escaping worlds
where they are conniving bitches
and worthless whores
who deserve the strangling hands
and the knife-wielding lovers
and the rapist husbands or partners.
I escaped
before you made visible scars,
but your sister was less lucky.
She wonders what I do here,
and I am caught.
I trip over a lie
about community service.
Useless, she knows.
People like us—escaped
or escaping worlds
where horror stories
are real—always know.

1 Reference to the fairy tale “Bluebeard” by Charles Perrault.