

# Understanding & Dismantling Privilege

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## **Bluebeard's Wives**

**Shelby Lynn Shively**

**University of Colorado Colorado Springs**

Shelby Shively received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and women's and ethnic studies from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in May of 2014. She will be going on to complete her Master of Arts in sociology at the same university, and she hopes to go on to earn a PhD and become a professor at a university. She is passionate about media studies, diversity issues, creative writing, and crochet.

Bluebeard's Wives<sup>1</sup>

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference to the fairy tale “Bluebeard” by Charles Perrault.