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[Unspecified Endocrine Disorder]

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[Unspecified Endocrine Disorder]

means the Census Bureau pretends
I do not exist—I can traverse
binaries, but not borders.

Larynx clanks how raindrops fall into rusty
wheelbarrows: a workzone marked forever under construction.

Her name is buried in decade-old
attic dust, my mother still trips
over pronouns like leftover shrapnel. Caught

in crosshairs of trauma-patient
dressings that wrap my body: scars
like hidden playground gossip.

They number-chart my time on Earth—
how many years I am post-
surgery, by how many months I've barbed-
wire pressed my skin.

Metal is far too good a conductor:
synthetic hormone-altered blood poisons
reproductive organs like tetanus, a cold scalpel.

How lovers push me onto beds
of nails when they ask to flick

the light on. There is a reason soil is most fertile
after volcanic eruptions, gardens grow
in pick-up trucks over years of abandonment.

I cannot help the victim who lives only in family
photographed memories: canonized wanted posters
of eternal makeshift obituaries.