

## PRETRIAL DETENTION (FOR A MOTHER SOMEWHERE)

*When we jail people, we trigger cascading consequences. In many cases, wages are foregone. Jobs are lost. Housing is jeopardized.*

—Civil Rights Corps

across dimensions maranda's brain travels  
always to the exact flashpoint's epicenter:

driving without license. the immoral crime  
so say the moral gatekeepers of mortal order.  
think about it: inside this weaponized cage

no bullet left the gun barrel's steel but she sits  
day after day & can't post a 500 dollar bail—

two jobs dictates living on the life's edge,  
today this giver of life will not return home,

a damning portrait of american civility—  
across dimensions her brain travels in a cage

no bullet left the gun barrel's steel but she sits,  
ethics pushing empathy further down a rabbit hole—  
held on a misdemeanor yet treated as felon,

harris county the human race watches in color  
your motto of *sentence first, conviction after*.