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ALL MY POEMS USED TO END IN SKY

but now they end in sleep,
and this morning on the radio,
the news announcer's voice
sticks on repeat—
cannot be
cannot be
cannot be found—
the phrase a needle
lodged in some laryngeal
groove of his throat.
He is talking about children,
or rather their parents
separated from them at the border.
I look into the blackness
of my coffee. Upstairs
in their rooms, my kids talk
through screens to their classmates.
I hear snippets when I walk
into the hall, a reassurance
of voices. Sometimes,
the border guards would tell
the parents they were taking
the children to another room
to give them a shower
or a change of clothes.
Then the sound of a truck
leaving. Sometimes,
they made no excuse at all.
Did the ones who told the lie
about the showers and new clothes
think they were being kind?

Whose job is it to find
the parents now? The guards
keeping watch along the fences
that surround the already chased down,
away, the people who wrote the law
the courts followed?
All of them doing a job
and then going home
to a home like mine,
where children freshly showered
and in clean clothes open their doors
at the end of each day to say *Mom,*
where are you? Can we have
a snack, a drink, Mom, is there time for a story,
can you sing us a song, Mom, please,
before we have to go to sleep?