Immigrant Poem for Two Voices

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| **Day by Day,** Marion S. | | |
|  | “A broken immigration system means broken families and broken lives.” ~ Jose Antonio Vargas |  |
| 1916. Hong Kong. Wǒ shì Quok Shee. |  | 2018. Hermosillo. Yo soy Gabriela Lopez. |
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|  | Disoriented in this foreign country, |  |
|  |  | Long hours, little money trying to provide for my daughter. |
|  | I came, desperate for just a single shot at survival |  |
| Age 20. Disease-ridden ship. |  |  |
|  |  | Age 30. Crowded bus to Agua Prieta, long walks under cover of darkness. |
|  | I hoped for |  |
| A place where I could be free |  | Better jobs |
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|  | A better life. Instead, I was detained. |  |
| Angel Island. 22 months. Interrogated and suspected of things I did not do. |  | Yuma Border Patrol Station. Two months. Twenty women. My daughter separated from me. |
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|  | I am not wanted here. |  |
| Chinese Exclusion Act: I have everything, except my sanity. They still won’t let me in. |  | Immigration and Nationality Act, U.S.C. Title 8: No money, no family in the US, incorrect papers. |
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|  | They finally let me in. |  |
| I am Quok Shee. |  | I am Gabriela Lopez. |
|  | Broken mirrors behind me, broken dreams before me, but I will still fight. |  |
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