**Marisa Demarco**

***Redacted***

Survivor after survivor recalls harrowing stories of institutional betrayal, of an investigatory eye so clouded, it won’t see what’s happening to them. Some try. They stay. They work through a confusing system. They recount the assault in detail in front of strangers. They wait. Maybe the person or people who assaulted them, who are also on campus, continue to threaten them.

The survivors leave school, sometimes, one possible future abandoned.

*“UNM’s investigations of sexual harassment complaints often take far too many months, and occasionally years, to complete.” —The U.S. Department of Justice in 2016 after years of investigating UNM*

Busted processes can enact another violence while promising, again, protection and safety that don’t come.

I tried to use the state’s own law——open records law——to see inside. After the polite dance of compliance, there were no more soft truths, and the records custodian returned black square after black square.

*“Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is preparing new policies on campus sexual misconduct that would bolster the rights of students accused of assault, harassment or rape, reduce liability for institutions of higher education and encourage schools to provide more support for victims.” —Erica L. Green, NYT, 2018*