

change our beds. I know that many, if not most, cleaning ladies are women of color¹⁰. I am acutely aware that most Latinas neither can nor do use hired help to clean their homes. I have difficulty imaging my mother doing so.

What obligations do we owe to those who make our professional lives possible? Is it enough that we pay them adequately? Or that we don't overtly exploit them? For us to be competitive at the top means that we use the women on the bottom; we are dependent on this economic hierarchy. What about their educational opportunities? To what extent do our activities improve the chances that they or their daughters will not be dependent upon this servile work?

My reliance on a woman to clean our home brings into focus the difference between my childhood and adult social and economic realities. I have become the person in the big house un/comfortably separated from those who stand outside. I worry about the effect of economic privilege on my daughters. I fear that they will take the women who work for us or the work that is done for granted. I vacillate between the relief that I feel in finding the house clean and the laundry done and the concern from knowing that we participate in the oppression of those who work for us.

Recently we have hired a Latina graduate student to watch Diana after school and to clean house for us. She will soon graduate into the ranks of upwardly mobile Latinas. The situation seems to be favorable for all of us. From our perspective, it relieves, to a large extent, the feeling that the person who works