

An American Woman

wearing her hijab
 over
 worn-out scrubs,

her shoulders back,
 head shrouded,
 the hems

of her faded blue pants
 catching under her feet
 as she marches

across the waiting room
 to tell her patient
 the surgery went well.

What does she offer
 but a glimpse
 of a far future,

a future of beautiful minds
 and beautiful choices,
 which she poses

not knowing
 just how many steps
 she has stridden ahead,

shoulders back, wearing her veil
 like a cape
 so long into the night.

By Kiana Rawji

*Inspired by William Carlos Williams' *A Negro Woman*