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I started creating the third wave of Warrior Women during the first COVID-19 lockdown, when we still hoped to stop the virus from reaching pandemic levels in the United States.

Like many Americans, we put in a vegetable garden, watched our new chickens grow, and tried home-schooling. It was fun. . . for about 2 weeks. Soon these novel activities became scarier and more tedious—preparing three meals a day, wiping down groceries, wearing masks, Zooming and isolating. But we counted our good luck and circumstances. Compared to many people, we were fine.

This was before a million people died.

The depression, hardships, and tragedies of other people's realities began to sink in.

This figure, Jessica, is for all the women worn out by COVID. She holds in her belly joblessness, home-schooling, nursing, telecommuting, and more. She is so stressed and stretched so thin, so full of acute responsibilities, that she feels she will disappear.