Maidenhood

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Maidenhood

Abstract
This is a film review of Maidenhood (2022) directed by Xóchitl Enríquez Mendoza.

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Maidenhood (“La Balahna”) (2022), dir. Xóchitl Enríquez Mendoza

La Balahna is a wedding night ritual practiced in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec region of Oaxaca, Mexico. The bride and groom engage in sexual activity on their wedding night to demonstrate the purity (virginity) of the bride and to demonstrate her value as a woman. If the wife bleeds after sexual intercourse, it shows that she has not been deflowered. But La Balahna is more than a ritual. It is also a test and just like all tests it can be passed or failed.