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## Rabbits in Shackles

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## RABBITS IN SHACKLES

*Inness Pryor*

Budding fear and disbelief bloom, *Amorphophallus titanium*, a livid stench of corpses and the knowledge that all is no longer well. And in first grade, those songs they taught you, the memorized recitation you took home, hand on your heart, wings in your chest swelling with pride before family members, the beauty of stars in your eyes. There was a banner of safety; no harm would come to a patriot, old signatures both shield and sword, and now they lie to you, take them in hand and they crumble, and we are left with sadism, we are given new swastikas. This is not nonsense; we are rabbits in shackles, free thought floats before our closed eyes. There is horror here, and you hide behind aviator glasses because the truth is too difficult. We are the terrorists, and I say no, it is because I love my country that I tell you this. 