

Institutional Betrayal Poetry

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Author Note

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Runaway Jury

Will
Dean from Engineering
believe me—

Administrator who
owned a
hardware store
or was it a drapery shop.

colleague
a former chef
turned professor
turned rancher
of horses and grapes.

Quasi-Provost
once an Executive
at Nordstrom, here now
and there then
power of the purse.

The one who failed organic chemistry
as an undergraduate
painter, now computer scientist,
newspaper writer in Alaska,
veteran who comes from where I do,
veteran who paints,
veteran who we suspect wears
molar necklaces
stolen of bodies buried in his backyard.

painters are more common than you think

All the way up the line
and side to side,
jury of my peers,
responsible for nothing
really
but they could be
and would I make it
in that case.

Burn tout



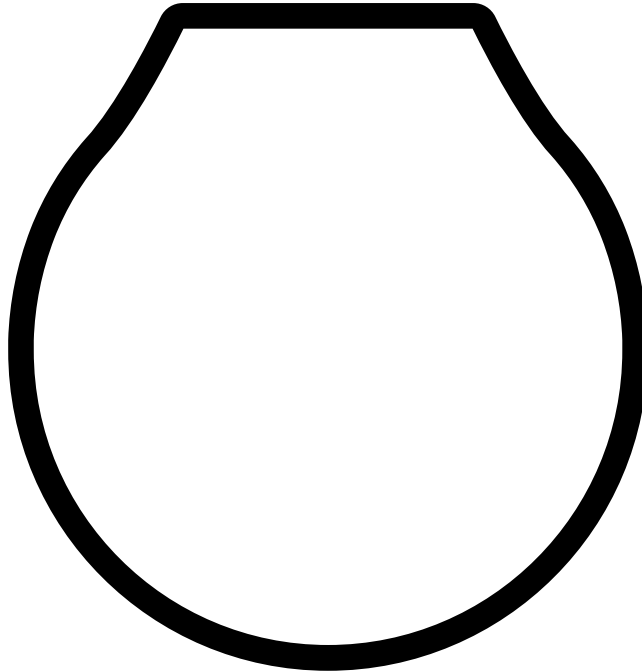
What's the status of



work orders for



lightbulbs in my office?



Jenna Goldsmith is a poet, writer, and Lecturer at Rockford University in Rockford, Illinois. She is also an instructor for Oregon State University Ecampus. Her poems have been published or are forthcoming in New Delta Review, South Carolina Review, Belt Magazine, and Action, Spectacle, among other venues. Her poetry chapbook, CRUSH, was the winner of the 2022 Baltic Writing Residency Chapbook Contest. She resides in Rockford, Illinois, where she is the City Poet Laureate.