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Madam Jezebel LeDoux, After the Widow Burden's Escape

by Robert Cooperman

I could've told Dennehy
what Brutus confided:
spying that half-breed
in the Widow's bedroom.

But Brutus warned,
"Let them be," snarling
the way he told me he'd growled
at one overlord too free
with his bullwhip,
forcing women slaves
to service him, and like it.
He met the man after Emancipation,
snapped his neck like a chicken.

But if I'd told Dennehy—
slick at murdering witnesses
and taking bribes—
we could've made sure
the Widow didn't run.

It burns my liver:
the business I'd've done
with a slack puller legally
poked by a man of God,
even one as flawed
as her husband'd been.

But the barbed wire in Brutus' eyes
was like nothing I'd ever seen,
not even when he beats
white hill rats
who mistreat our girls.

