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Visiting Hours

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Visiting Hours

by Richard Dinges, Jr.

From a high ceiling,
Long, bright fluorescent
tubes sterilize air
between flat, large-paned windows, one a view
of a parking lot,
another a white clapboard
house with a wide empty
porch. We sit in four
vinyl cushioned chairs,
a square with room
to twitch legs.
We soon run low
on words, and she
returns through a door
that latches shut
with a dull metallic click.