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Hillbillions

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JEANNETTE ALLÉE

Hillbillions

"So there was a glitch in the system."

— Donald Rumsfeld on Abu Ghraib, April 2004

Ashamed, of the squat-bodied hillbilly girl
thumbs up to the world
Dude-ing stripped captives
dogpiled for the camera.
It's the barn squealing grin that does me in
the devil-may-care, *aw shucks* malice.

What is class? Not monied connections or even proper
verb conjugation, rather, a willingness
—however mustered—
to imagine, with our *homo* meaning humankind, sapience
the life of the other.

Today, on a Baghdad street, this, from a prisoner freshly released:
They are treating us like women.