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Brass Knuckles

Erica Bernheim

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Brass Knuckles

It will not help you to think of them
as maiden's fingers, fat boys, wedding
rings, knuckle dusters, or, for the most

exotic and international of thugs: tiger's
claws, trench knives, diamond fists. Steel
over brass, momentum over pause, each

discount counts. You can be hit whether
or not you're at home. There are times
when a person wants one's fists to wear

truths that advertise their desires.
These are not pitchers asking permission
to blow on their own hands, Rembrandt's

painting along the very corners. Be yet wary
of the protection afforded by brass knuckles.
There are no scans for violence,

no siphoning, allergy eyes, a one-thing-
at-a-time-thing, eating live squirrels with
your bare hands. You would not hit so hard

for fear of hurting your own hands.
Make omelets from brass knuckles.
Use brass knuckles as the handles

of your coffee cups. You can find
brass knuckles perfect for ladies,
discreet as rhinestones and boy-ties,

gearshifts rustproof and more feverish
than the moon. Look for brass knuckles
as paperweights tearing through

the parchment of a face. Look
for brass knuckles masquerading as belt
buckles: brass knuckles with (imprintable):

longhorn steer, lions, skulls, classic patterns
for every motif you never dreamed of.
Pity the brass knuckles more than those

who wear them. Consider the alternatives:
aluminum, concrete dragging your hands
tectonically against the fabulous glittery

remnants of lives wasted on the phone.
Consider their usefulness to a priest
dragged away by balloons, suspended

between the violence and the never
enough. Brass knuckles add speed
to life. Find the right words and don't

say them. You will become this: an
extension of the body, an action with no
power, a prosthesis of no hope, knuckles,

a way to ensure a memorable exit: light
middleweight Andrew "Six Heads"
Lewis told the ref he needed to take a shit

in 2006 and never returned to the ring.