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**“war in the time of commas”,  
“grammar Nazis (post-apostrophe literature)” &  
“like two lower-case pronouns”**

By P. L. Thomas

**war in the time of commas**

so many of the wars  
seemed senseless in retrospect

all of them in fact

but it was the war eliminating commas  
that proved to be most ridiculous

all the lives and limbs lost  
to settle a matter of mechanics

who manufactured all those land mines  
who manufactured this maze of rules

do you recognize me standing here  
like an oxford comma hidden in a fist

this one-armed human trying to pause  
our never-ending apocalypse of grammar

**grammar Nazis (post-apostrophe literature)**

when they came for the apostrophes  
its like someone took all the stars  
turning the night sky flat black

we were left with isnt and wont  
all our its were jumbled  
and everyone lost their possessions

we began to bury dashes in the backyard  
lock semicolons in chests in the attic  
stuff commas by the handfuls in our pockets

sometimes in the inky darkness of night  
exclamation points hidden like knives  
under our pillows

we held hands or spooned whispering

*itll be alright*  
*they wont win*  
*they wont win*

**like two lower-case pronouns**

How did I know it had happened? Because of its absence now, because I  
still felt the loss of it...

*Borne, Jeff VanderMeer*

you&i  
are sitting in the bathroom floor  
sidebyside and facing one another

because this seems the most natural thing  
you&i  
exhausted and crying

like two lower-case pronouns  
joined by an ampersand  
i&you



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