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THREE POEMS BY JEFF CROUCH

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Painter's Tape

I stood there limp

From the blast of fume spent

The can you had opened
Was liquid cement

The phone ringing, I cross the room

You tell me you're filming birds
In the garden
But we don't have a garden

Why did you call me on the phone?

We could have spoken

Yes, but the painter's tape rule
Would have been broken

Hitler Rapes Mary Poppins_

How you managed to trick The bull mastiff into a filmatic feat
The Yorkie looked stunned

Your brother was still sleeping
When you filmed the whole thing in his room

You got several barks from the dogs,
And I think _That Touch of Mink_
Served its purpose

But how that Doris Day film was your inspiration
I missed in my critique

I wasn't thinking about liberation
I was thinking about _Animal Farm_
Even William Wegman

Your title proved my undoing
An allegory, I tried to pursue it

Where was the German shepherd?
My wrong-headed question

a truck full of ready-made windows

darting like a sick bird
cloud

dainty dandelion breeze

in fickle sunshine

plate glass scattered across the road

you were my last romance
the whole wide world

Jeff Crouch is a writer in Grand Prairie, Texas. His writing has appeared in *Above Ground Testing*, *Canopic Jar*, *The Cerebral Catalyst*, *Cordite*, *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*, *The Dream People*, *Lunatic Chameleon*, *My Favorite Bullet*, *saucy vox*, *semantikön*, *Subterranean Quarterly*, *Underground Window*, *Venue--A Southern Forum*, *Static Movement*, *The Rose and Thorn*, *Spent Meat*, *tre_a_tro*, *Unlikely Stories*, *MG Version 2*, and *Wire Sandwich* with more forthcoming in *SN Review* and *Laika Poetry Review*.

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