

Portraits of My Reintegration

Jacob Reisinger

I sleep on the couch in my mom's basement, still living
Out of my Army green duffel bag—a friend's name
Stenciled in typewriter black on its side because my unit
Forgot to make mine. My dress uniform hangs over
The free side of the couch, neatly pressed, covered in
Laundromat plastic.

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I try on my dress uniform for the first time since Army
Separation. The white-collar undershirt is still sweat-stained
Brown from my final unit ball, where I got dumb drunk
From a punch bowl with a floating green sock in it.

I don the midnight black overcoat; it feels
Like I'm stretching wet leather across my shoulders.
I see myself straining and ripping in the dirty bathroom
Mirror. My body is swollen and soft, not mine.
It's terrifying to see myself dressed as a soldier.

Jacob Reisinger is an Active Duty Army and Air Force National Guard veteran. His work attempts to decipher the tether between civilian reality and past military memories. Jacob's work has been published or shortlisted in the following places: *Of Rust and Glass*, *The Albion Review*, *Southeast Missouri's Proud to be Series*, Laura Boss Narrative Poetry Award, and *Writers Digest* Annual Writing Award.