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## Painted Iron

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## **Your Unknown Possession**

Christina Hickman

You, the American, the fortunate one  
Wake each day to priceless opportunities  
Gifts from some distant forefather  
One who allegedly shed blood for you  
You partake in these benefits daily  
Without thought or even thanks  
You attire yourself in hundred dollar skin  
For which you will one day pay, but  
Not now, thanks to Master Card  
You transverse borders with no thought  
Traveling from country to communism  
To civil wars and back again  
Simply relying on a blue, stamped book  
You view fires, hurricanes, and starving children  
From a Lazy Boy with beer in hand  
Flipping screens if too boring or gory  
Dismissing images with learned apathy  
Christmas and Easter, ritualistic visits  
To shell out dues to who knows what  
God, merely a name seen when  
Purchasing unneeded merchandise  
Or maybe pondered on September 11  
But only in fear or anger  
You stroll from spouse to spouse  
That is, if you decide to marry

## **Painted Iron**

by Nick Young

Children and pets are good when lonely  
But require no effort or instruction  
Then you wonder about Columbine  
You pour time, effort, and money  
Into legalizing marijuana  
And fail to connect overflowing jails  
To the growing addictions  
You idealize stick skinny supermodels  
But send teenage girls into suicidal depression  
Yes, you would be 100% American  
Fortunate? Well, you should have been  
But in your freedom you lost it  
Enslaved to the incessant demands of self  
Ask those living in oppression about it  
They know the very essence of liberty  
But you, you only know bondage  
Slavery to the freedoms you think you so deserve

