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## Compensation

Rick Rinner

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**BURNING HATE** Michael Nguyen

### COMPENSATION

Rick Rinner

Mouth open fractured

Frozen in rage or fear

Skin cooling, holding still

Bloody, dirty, pale

Eyes grey

Rolled toward its brow

Looking to forever

Finding nothing

Neck stretched in permanent breath

Unable to inhale

Hands gripped at its uniform

Unable to tear away

Legs twisted

Broken, parts of a whole

Uniform providing warmth

To the inactivity inside

Sand under boots

Gore drenched, crunching like scabs

The smell

Human flesh burning even after all life is gone

Work completed

Wages are memories

Dreams. Torment. Nightmares.