

# GIRL IS GLUED TO DOOR

poem by William Ross



Image: "Untold Stories" by Judith Fox. "Girl is Glued to Door" was written by William Ross for *Rattle's* Ekphrastic Challenge, June 2023, and selected as the Artist's Choice.

There are things I still don't understand  
about you. Your mouth would tell me,  
but there has been a violence, your  
voice punched away for being  
in the wrong place, a darkness thrown

in spatters and now your face. Like a  
wanted poster, you stare out, hair swept  
back so you see clearly,  
confronting the world head-on. Are you  
followed? Are you hunted?

I've been combing dispatches,  
the cryptic signals you send:

the flannel shirt, choice of lumberjacks  
and grunge musicians, plaid considered  
dangerous in some circles;  
the skull pendant on a string.

And messages from a hunter of images,  
ones you did not intend:

the fierce defiance of an armoured door,  
blunt violence of a ragged hole  
blasted through your likeness,  
a documentary record torn open, raw

threshold revealed. The voice shouting:  
*Entry is Trespass.*