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Justice for All

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Justice for All

Lorna Van Gilst

Double-flanked
A row of egg crates between
the hands

that work their way
through garbage bags
of castoff clothes—

Maternity
Babies
Girls
Boys
Ladies
Men
Shoes
Purses, belts, hats—

the rarely worn
the soiled and stained—
handkerchief still crumpled in the pocket
the stretched, the faded, the torn
the neglected—price tags still attached
the out-of-style

another life perhaps—
out there beyond
the collection box?

purples and pinks
glitters and dots
Bugle Boy and Guess

Unstuff the bags that hold
our hoarded guilt.
Sort and judge and pack.
Then close the crates
and hurry home
to wash off the irony
of abundance.