

Wilderness House Literary Review 4/3

Carl Palmer

methodist makeover

the huge pile of clothes donated to our church rummage sale by the war widow her departed husband a young man just forty four his taste ran fairly medium along with his size 34 X 32 trousers brown blue tan gray and black dockers 16 ½ X 34 button down shirts and knit pullovers to keep the wives away from the pile of clothes my size the rumor emerges these clothes were salvaged from state funeral homes taken off dead men after their viewing everyone knows the body is always buried naked all my size I won't try on a single piece of my new wardrobe

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Wheel-chaired into the lobby
from his assisted care room,

the elderly Jewish gentleman
squints into bright camera lights,

accepts the lottery check,
smiles at the television crew.

A newspaper reporter asks,
Was this a computer pick

*or did you already have
some numbers in mind?*

He focuses on her microphone,
as his hand rubs the sleeve

of the frayed gray sweater
covering his faded blue tattoo.