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## Learning to Live with *A Clockwork Orange*

JC TALAMANTEZ

—Stanley's film that is not  
the lyrical thin novel

that no one could grasp  
discomfort in a room of men

or what stake you had in clarity

the soft power of  
swallowing a nail

any might see this  
is the way the body begins

to turn on you more teeth

because they like to imagine you  
in every moment

and because all that grief  
should mean something

because you want to open it  
without making the thing collapse

because it's easier to ask what she is

TALAMANTEZ

it's good propaganda but bad metaphysics

so it's never  
mattered that every day  
you will know what rape means

we accept them / make them our own

but why not teach me strength

I've seen it several times since  
once in a little theater over on Belmont

people are flawed  
as people art  
is flawed as art



won the Philip Levine Prize from Fresno State and Anhinga Press; and his second, *The Surface of the Lit World*, won the Hollis Summers Prize from Ohio University Press. He teaches in and directs the MFA program at University of Missouri–St. Louis.

**JC Talamantez** is a Mexican-American poet whose work has appeared in *Poetry Northwest*, *New Ohio Review*, *Salamander*, *Smartish Pace*, *Hopkins Review*, *Frontier Poetry*, *Boulevard*, *Water-Stone Review*, and others. She was a longtime student of academic philosophy and teaches writing and humanities courses across a number of disciplines.

**A. E. Wynter** is a Black writer from New York. She currently lives in Minneapolis, where she has received grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, was a fiction fellow in the 2021–2022 Loft Mentor Series, and most recently, participated in a regional Cave Canem workshop. Wynter won first place in the 53rd New Millennium Writing Award for Poetry, and her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *West Trade Review*.

**Katie Yee** is a writer from Brooklyn. Her work has appeared in *No Tokens*, *The Believer*, the *Washington Square Review*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Triangle House*, and *Literary Hub*. She has received fellowships from The Center for Fiction, the Asian American Writers' Workshop, and Kundiman. By day, she works at the Brooklyn Museum. By night, she chips away at a collection of short stories and a novel.