

The Red Scare

by Ana Molestina

She turned on the tv from hearing the latest news about the pandemic. When the evening news ended, she turned off all the lights in her house. She took her children to their beds, prayed, and gave them the routine goodnight kiss. While she was closing the door, she looked at them with a smile when they finally fell asleep. She decided to clean her house. Her hands were irritated and calloused from cleaning so much. The idea of death haunting her home had her immersed in the perfectionism of cleanliness, and was possessed with an anxiety that she could not control. She had yet to clean the bathroom when suddenly the doorbell rang at midnight. She opened the door, yet no one was there. While she was closing the door, she had difficulty breathing, and started coughing. She was so tired that she decided to go to sleep. She turned off the light in the living room, and she began to hear a lot noises in the bathroom. She approached and noticed in the corner of the bathroom's door a red color she never seen before. As this red shape began getting closer, she heard it whisper quietly to her. And before she knew it, the red entity vanished; it was now deep within her. Not wanting to spread this red demon, she picked up the Clorox, and stared at it. She felt the whisper from within, grow louder and louder. With no hesitation, she opened the white bottle and felt for the first time, not having the need to clean anymore.