

## Photograph

Everything  
in the picture is white  
—well, almost everything.

Ceiling, with glowing  
florescent fixtures,  
walls, even the floor.  
The clock face is white too,  
with a white plastic case.  
Only numbers and hands  
disrupt the pattern (must,  
I guess, be able to tell when  
the appointed time arrives).  
The frame is white, too,  
on the window  
that allows witnesses  
in the room next door  
to see what takes place  
when the appointed time  
arrives.

The main contrast is the chair itself.  
It is, you can tell right away,  
a very special chair,  
the only one of its kind  
at the Greenville Correctional  
Facility in Jarrett, Virginia:  
an aged-oak color,  
with dark leather straps—  
both of which are more likely  
than the ceiling and walls  
to match the color of a prisoner  
fastened there until  
definitively corrected.

The color of the human hand  
that, when the appointed time  
arrived on so many occasions,  
threw the switch, delivering thereby  
the requisite correctional jolt,  
is not public information.  
But you don't really have to see it.  
Just remember: Everything  
in this picture is white  
—well, almost everything.

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