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Tomorrow's Living Room

Jason Whitmarsh

Published by Utah State University Press

Whitmarsh, Jason.

Tomorrow's Living Room.

Utah State University Press, 2009.

Project MUSE.muse.jhu.edu/book/9423.



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Access provided at 6 Apr 2020 16:47 GMT with no institutional affiliation



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AND QUARTERED

After the scare in the nursery, everyone stopped
taking their jasmine for granted. Even forsythia
seemed more vibrant, more worth a stop and stare.

Amidst rumors of media, they carted the lovers
out a side door, belts and shoelaces removed.
In some prisons, one said, they dress you in paper.

The gurney rattled across the town's new asphalt.
The media, a single helicopter, made no landing.
The wind tore the shirts from the crowd.