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## After the Last One

J. Alan Nelson

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# After the Last One

by J. Alan Nelson

bluebonnets live forever  
they come again every year, damn the radiation,  
we breathe the sun's fire with each breath  
flames filling our lungs  
dark filaments stinging our eyes' coronas,  
walking on the planet's magnetic structures  
and see the visual treat of a filmy spray of fire  
through cities filled with shabby offices  
filled with people, whose minds  
hide loops of fiery plasma behind faces  
expressive as shabby office furniture  
stuck with the awkwardness  
of the not unborn  
the ineptness of those not dead  
the latest advertisements their religious dogma  
wedged in futile life's custody



*Photo (detail) by James Crittenden*