

A Badge to Wear on the Lapel of One's Coat or around the Upper Arm

By Bria Buttafuoco

There are many different jews:
Ashkenazi jews, Sephardi jews, Mizrahi jews.
The Jew who is secular.
The Jew who raises his right hand.
saying, "at least I'm not Mizrahi."

There is one I know who may not be a Jew
because his mother's conversion wasn't kosher.
Another who grips his chest and cries,
"Why, God?" Overtop the open palm praise
From the rabbi's, "My God."

There are some who see it coming--
the blackened clouds, the helmets,
the insignias and emblems, the medals
soldiers will wear like tallies,
silver wire, flattened homes, big pits
in the earth like gaping mouths.

And there are the Jew's who think
the journey from Warsaw is too far.
The Jew who will wait it out.
The Jew who will not.

But now *es gibt nur eins*, a Jew and his neighbor,
who grew up in different villages,
wear the same star.