

# Senza via d'uscita: guerra e tossicodipendenza in “Yanqui Doodle” di Alice Sheldon, alias James Tiptree, Jr.

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## Abstract

Compared to other short stories written by Alice Sheldon/James Tiptree, Jr., “Yanqui Doodle” has not received so far much critical attention. And yet this is a remarkable example of science-fictional war narrative, dealing with such important issues as trauma, the depiction of atrocities, neo-colonial politics, the American Empire; moreover, there is a gendered subtext, based on what might be defined as the femalization of a male subject, which connects this story with Sheldon’s/ Tiptree’s more celebrated narratives. All in all the story of a drug-addicted American infantryman subjected to a brutal and almost sadistic detox program can be well read as a bitter and pessimistic commentary on the policies of the Reagan administration in the 1980s, thus articulating a sort of critical allegory of American imperialism which is still valid today.