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Chernobyl Fox Makes and Eats Six-Layer Sandwich

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When the video starts again, the girl laughs—
a giddy joy rings through her, a sure way

to clang the tears out of her—
and she can't get enough of the fox,

shaggy, bedraggled, traipsing down
the abandoned stairs of a hospital,

perhaps, that served the homes
where plant workers once lived,

this creature whose predecessors never left
the exclusion zone, that erasure, that new wild,

who isn't wary of the prattle quickening
behind the camera, or the bread,

each shock of white thudding
to the pavement like blanched pigeons,

and steps right to the fatty moons
of ham pinkened by smoke and nitrates

that he snatches from a hand
then scrabbles—as if he's done this before—

into a stack with the bread
bulging like a cartoon eyeball

from his goofy, gaping jaws,
while the girl laughs louder now—

oh, it wrecks her every time.