



1987

## Poems

Shaunt Basmajian

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## Poems

### **Abstract**

THE FANTASY AT 35, and ON HOLIDAY

# Shaunt Basmajian

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## THE FANTASY AT 35

the beautiful young  
blonde centrefold  
is afraid she may  
have aids  
and has just given up  
her five month old baby  
for adoption  
to a middle aged couple  
living out of  
the province

her boyfriend  
whom she's been with  
for the past six months  
was recently arrested  
and sentenced to  
five years  
charged for possessing  
an illegal weapon  
and for running  
a prostitution ring

her father  
whom she hasn't seen  
since she was four  
just sent her a letter  
'postmarked' victoria  
finally admitting to  
his guilt  
fourteen years  
too late

while  
in the plaster coated  
kitchenette room  
downstairs  
infested with mice  
and roaches  
i continue to drink  
a cup of black coffee  
hungover  
with her mother

## ON HOLIDAY

indian peasants  
    lined up  
one by one  
    on the busy  
spanish street  
    begging for dollars  
        and pesos  
    hungry for  
        an american burger  
a 'big mac' at the  
    mexican macdonald's  
    while ravaged  
        in the ring  
scanted bulls  
    remain massacred  
to grab more  
    tourist money  
with eyes radiant  
    and coiled  
    too poor to glare  
everywhere you look  
    getting more jealous  
as you drink  
    their beer imported

write poetry  
    on their beaches  
    get burned  
        in their sun  
trying to escape  
    for a fun holiday  
        on an 'off-season'  
            package deal  
    watching a group  
of local workers  
    doing your job  
in another country  
        for less than  
    the minimum

# Jack Hodgins

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## INTERVIEW

Jeanne Delbaere interviewed Jack Hodgins in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, on 7 September 1987.

*Jack, we are here in the Bookstore on Bastion Street in Nanaimo where The Honorary Patron will be launched in a few days. Is it the novel you read from at the Vienna conference in 1983?*

No, that one didn't work. I had been working on it since 1981. It had started as a story but had quickly developed into something much bigger. I even tried to turn it into a play but somehow it didn't come off. At the time of the Vienna conference I abandoned it for a while to work on a