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## Poems

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## Poems

### **Abstract**

THE PHONEY NUDE, FLEDGELING SPOTTED PARDALOTE

## James Charlton

### THE PHONEY NUDE

On the swimsuits-optional beach  
a Dutchman wants to show you  
a dick instead of a heart.

When he says 'Nakedness is not an issue'  
you know it is, or should be,  
but he hasn't got the guts

to reveal anything so intimate.  
With him, the fig leaf's  
so firmly on the face

it might take God-knows-how-many  
shape-up or ship-out relationships  
with women before he really

gets undressed  
and it's too late  
too late.

### FLEDGELING SPOTTED PARDALOTE

A tiny sampler  
of delicate stitchery  
hangs from a black tack  
stuck in a frantic gum leaf

when along comes  
this ere peaked-cap-  
of-a-punter (Owz It Goin  
Orright? Tha Name's Koo-  
Ka-Burra)

and  
unpicks  
the  
stitches.