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# Troubador

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*John Forbes (1950-1998)*

TROUBADOR

where the heart burns  
like an old tyre  
filling the air  
with flecks of carbon  
& a terrible stink—  
that's where I set up my altars  
not realising  
my personal pain  
was a vision of the future  
where fun will consist  
of smoking crack  
on the edge of a garbage dump  
you've just spent  
15 hours rooting in  
because you're in debt  
for the price of a bed  
& the suburbs have disappeared  
into the huge,  
ecologically sustainable  
estates of the rich  
where Love has retreated  
like it did before,  
only to re-appear  
after a couple of centuries  
when its owners had got  
utterly bored,  
hacking each other  
—& us—to bits