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## Pawn Shop Guitars

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# Pawn Shop Guitars

by Greg Young

I'm looking for a bargain,  
a solid-top acoustic sacrificed  
for food or rent. The Gibson smells  
of cigarettes—a dance hall darling  
dropped too many times.  
She won't hold tune.

The classical is cracked  
as if neglected then banished  
to dry attic heat where  
wood shrunk and strings  
went slack as fishing line.

I ask the man about the Martin,  
yellow-tagged behind the counter.  
He hands it to me. I stroke the neck.  
He studies my face, smiles,  
chews his unlit cigar.

