

Fast-Track Citizenship

By Dennis J Bernstein

Green-Card corpse in
marine-issue body bag,
poised to become an American

Lunch-Box Nightmare

By Dennis J Bernstein

Pablo's Papa was a healer. He made medicines for the old people in the village so they could stop coughing and lie down quietly when the coyotes started howling and the sun fell behind the mountains. But then the men with the machetes came and chopped off his Papa's head. He was still sitting in his chair when Pablo found him, his hands up on his work bench like he was still mixing his powders and making his magic pills. Last night Pablo dreamt he was walking to school with his lunchbox. He opened it and his Papa's head was inside, his left ear pushed up against his thermos bottle. His papa's talking skull wanted to know where the men with the masks and machetes hid his bones and the rest of his body after they cut his head off.

A Fisherman in Pacifica

By Dennis J Bernstein

At a few hundred yards,
the fisherman is a stick figure,
thin as his rod. The line
that binds him
to high-tide
is unbreakable.

Serendipity

By Dennis J Bernstein

Some of us stalk the night air trolling for our past in old letters
and B movies, sorting through paraphernalia in left over boxes
from the 20th century. We cut ourselves on images that should
never be handled by the living: Right now, it's midnight, somewhere
between childhood and my death bed: I step on a nail and it comes out my head.

**From the Book
of ReBrelations**

By Dennis J Bernstein

always at odds
with the king
and his gods

Shopping With Mother

By Dennis J Bernstein

For three days now,
my mother has been
sitting on my shoulder,
riding the cross-town bus—
bargain hunting at one box
store after another:
dead five years, now,
she still has
an uncanny eye
for a bargain

Writing Raw

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Dennis J Bernstein bio: Dennis J Bernstein is author, most recently, of *Special Ed: Voices from a Hidden Classroom*, which received the 2012 Literary Achievement Award from Artist Embassy International. His poetry has appeared in the *New York Quarterly*, *Chimaera*, *Bat City Review*, *The Progressive*, *Texas Observer*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Red River Review*, etc Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Color Purple*, writes that *Special Ed* "...is art turned to us through the eyes of love." Carol Smaldino says in *The Huffington Post* that the poems remind us how "...we are all connected to the sorrows as well as to the grandness of being human..."