

# Shots Below the Brow

*by Gary Hardaway*

## **For the Reading**

My poems  
scarcely begin  
before they're over.  
Listen up.

## **The Smartest in the Room**

His self-assurance says  
he's practiced in the art  
of self-deception  
and murders nagging doubts  
shaving at the mirror.

## **Why We'll Always Be A Disappointment**

The great incentives  
are money and power.  
Love lies a distant third.  
We play to our strengths.

## **New and Improved**

which means they  
found a cheaper way  
that doesn't disappoint  
so much that you won't pay  
the slightly higher price.

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Available online at *«<http://fictionaut.com/stories/gary-hardaway/shots-below-the-brow>»*

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### **Slacker Haiku**

A cheap box of wine,  
a carton of cigarettes-  
he's set for the week.

### **Epitaph for One Still Breathing**

A life so dull,  
before it was lived  
it was forgotten.

### **Homer at Happy Hour**

Drown me in the dark wine  
and not the wine dark sea.

