

# Did Mr. Virgo Have Knowledge of the Possibilities?

M.T.C. Cronin<sup>†</sup>

The seven judges had names  
(not so sure about faces)  
and it had taken them  
quite a bit of time  
to get qualified  
In skill, in inventiveness,  
in the ability (of each) to  
take up from the point  
indicated by a sign

The first had a fish  
feeding on his chest  
and a big instinct  
His sky was full  
of the clouds  
from Biblical movies  
and his face a temple  
hewn from solid rock  
He listened to  
the defence of provocation  
With her swinging hips  
and red mouth  
And said  
A woman could drive  
a man to drink

The second was  
a little man  
who spoke in a long blue hiss  
hiss hiss hiss  
All other syllables  
he had left at home  
for his wife  
to wash with his socks  
He was sympathetic

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<sup>†</sup> Ms. Cronin is a qualified solicitor, was co-editor of the *Aboriginal Law Bulletin*, and taught Aboriginal Studies and Cultural Diversity. She is a poet and prose writer who researches feminist legal theory at the University of New South Wales. She has published her poems and short stories in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Europe. Her first collection of poetry, *Zoetrope*, was published in June by Five Islands Press.

and vicious  
And you don't have to guess  
to whom . . .

The third and fourth  
were two old men  
with a sack of bricks  
and broken windows  
One no longer  
made his own decisions  
The other always wavered

The fifth believed  
a woman was his leg  
—his fucking leg—  
to stand on  
and couldn't understand  
how they'd learned to read  
and get jobs  
(that paid!)  
In his mind he saw  
a beauty, waiting  
for a bus  
with her bursting case  
and he thought  
This woman should  
have kept her mouth  
SHUT!

Number six was  
a little tricky  
analytic and synthetic  
and had once "truly"  
represented the people  
He was always  
saying things like  
Did you sleep well?  
Did they give you a meal?  
Have you looked around  
the city?  
He believed in doing  
the best he could

(isn't life wonderful?)  
and was always making  
attempts at discovery  
He was suspicious of the man  
Problem was  
He believed in one truth  
And was so suspicious  
of the woman as well  
(even though  
she was dead)

And the seventh  
Well he was head honcho  
He stuck his pliers in  
To "extract" the truth  
After weeks of evidence  
After yeast-filled days  
of deliberation  
rising up to fill the  
annals of history  
He asked:  
"But did Mr. Virgo  
have full knowledge  
of the possibilities?"

Surely he must have realized  
that if he pushed her over  
the cliff *she'd hurt herself?*

Surely he must have known  
the day of the week?

I don't think so!

He knocked both her front  
teeth out  
Then sat on the top step  
and cried"

'Mummy' he cried  
But he didn't know  
whose mother she was

