

1985

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Cover Page Footnote

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The old woman pinched the packaged tomatoes
And carefully placed them back on the pile
She remembered years ago
How she had picked tomatoes all day long
For the price of four supermarket tomatoes

The hot sun had beamed down on her covered head
And earth was a smell that clung to her aprons
A good hard day's work she thought, and I'm all
The better for it

Now machines caress their fragile skin
And the art of barter is wrapped in cellophane
Marked in bold dark numbers
One dollar and twenty-five cents

Annie Jessup