

1973

The Summer of Mexico

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Kim Gilmore

THE SUMMER OF MEXICO

The old Chicanos
like swollen brown birds
squat roundly in their doorsteps.

They twitter and croon
for the fat of my purse —
for the fat of the grape.
Slim, lizardy children
are orphans at breakfast
and their ribs poke me, through my papaya and cream.
I feed the greedy-beaked hands, that snap shut when
they're full.

Grinning Senors —
plump with my purse
offer hospitality

in crude Spanish verse

Slump-me to my stomach — lie
and huddle by
their babies on my hem

“Peso, Peso American lady.”