

Happy Addict
Shawn Van Horn

Snuffed out cigarettes stand upright in an ashtray
like dirty candles on a plastic cake
in an icing of ash.

A year of life,

or ten minutes of a bad habit?

My stained fingers pushed them out,
forgetting to make a wish.

As I take a drag

and jam another year into extinction,

I wonder:

What would I wish for anyway?

I have everything I could ever want.

Shawn Van Horn is the author of several short stories and poems and is now working on his second novel. He has been published in *Our Time is Now*, *Wilmington Blues*, *Fourth & Sycamore*, *The Oddville Press*, *Adelaide*, *Everyday Fiction*, and *The Mark Literary Review*.