

Winnipeg Free Press
Reviewed by Jonathan Ball
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Cassidy McFadzean's **Hacker Packer** (McClelland & Stewart, 82 pages, \$19) mishmashes references for strange, ultra-modern images: "This time of year, Agamemnon's / tomb is swarming with Beliebers." (It's sad that my computer didn't autocorrect "Beliebers" ...)

McFadzean's poems jostle this kind of fun, odd imagery against darker ideas — in one poem, a child covered in burn scars is selected at a school assembly to help demonstrate fire safety.

One poem late in the book contains a line that might be read as a mini-review of the book as a whole: "Most of this is coffee and metaphors, / and mornings waking up in the dark." *Hacker Packer* is a strong, impressive, dense debut that promises great things.