

From *MEANS*:

“Hic Rhodus, Hic Salta!”

Roger Farr

1.

If a large telecommunications

Company fires several employees

After a larger company takes control

And the managers of private

Unregulated pools of capital

Back a certain candidate in

The next Federal Election, then

Canadians who are addicted to

Technology will feel they need new

Phones. If a national sports franchise

Loses more games than it wins

Despite the media's repetition

Of its effective marketing strategy

While a popular resort tries to shed

Its out-dated image, then a television

Show about men in a small town

Who become full-time care-givers

After their wives leave for a week

Will be renewed. If a number of

Officers are killed near the border

And hunting whales is a tradition

That links generations, then the

State's attempt to make a large
Military purchase will be thwarted
By concerns about espionage.
If another foot washes ashore
On the West Coast of North America
While immigrant labourers seek
Refuge in places where the law
Is harder to enforce, then the gay
Community in Montreal will object
To the increasing privatization
Of public space. If a national police
Force infiltrates the women's
Movement and collects intelligence
About a popular entertainer
While a union is allowed to appeal
The closure of a large retail store
Then a new gene discovery will help
Researchers detect tumors earlier.
If morale improves when employees
At an auto-dealer win the lottery
And a man is arrested for an internet
Scam in which people pay thousands
Of dollars for vintage automobiles

That never existed, then someone
Will accidentally spend \$999.99 on
A digital phone application
That does nothing but display
A glowing red ruby. If anti-government
Demonstrators seeking to disrupt high-
Level government meetings fan out
Across a large Asian city, and the
Prime Minister doesn't include
A stimulus package for the economy
Then Santa won't visit any shops
On Main Street this year. If a new
Study shows that low-income
Individuals are more likely to be
Hospitalized for mental illness
While an aging boy-band tries to
Cash in on its former fame by
Releasing a new single, then new
Research will reveal troubling
Changes in the Arctic. If police
In Florida investigate a live
Streaming video of a teen suicide
While a student studying the History

Cf Civilizations in France is charged
With leading a terrorist organization
Then a local council will come
One step closer to passing
A childcare policy that aims to
Alleviate conflict between residents and
Providers. If the Navy tests a remote
Controlled submarine near a commuter
Ferry, while a member of the Christian
Life Assembly mistakes a package
Containing computer components for
A bomb, then property taxes will be
Used to pay for an emergency
Management plan. If a 24 unit, 4 story
24,000 sq. foot condominium project
Is given the highest level of environmental
Certification it can receive, and
The popularity of turtlenecks this Fall
Is tied to the global economic crisis
Then a scientist will help to rescue
The commercial tree industry when he
Discovers that the Western Conifer Seed
Bug uses infra-red sensors to help it

Locate its food. If the Minister of
Finance declares that the country's
Books will remain balanced despite
The downturn in the economy, and
A new publisher focusing on avant-
Garde writing taps into an over-
Flowing pool of manuscripts, then
American car manufactures will
Learn that flooding the market
With volume is not enough.
If a politician criticizes China's
Human rights record on the eve
Of the Olympic ceremonies, while
A popular entertainer says she
Had no idea she was under
Surveillance in the 1970's, then
An international sex symbol will get
Her first taste of a faux-chicken
Sandwich after years of campaigning
Against the fried-chicken chain
That sells it. If the FBI links letters
Laced with anthrax to an army
Bio-weapons scientist, while research

Conducted in Sweden indicates

Senior citizens are having a significant

Amount of sex, then the email of

A 29 year-old computer designer

Will reveal his hatred for the West –

Hic Rhodus, Hic Salta!

2.

If an Army provost marshal
Clashes with a detective
Over a murder at a military
Base, while President John F.
Kennedy and his staff react
To news of a Soviet missile
Buildup in Cuba, then a man
Searching for his long-missing
Father will return to the deserts
Of Abu Dahbi. If a common
Swordsmith freelances for King
Arthur to prove himself worthy
Of the earl's daughter, while
A man dressed in black recruits
Six mercenaries to lead Mexican
Villagers against an outlaw, then
A reporter covering a Christmas
Party in Savannah, Georgia
Will stay for the host's murder
Trial. If a medieval dragon-
Slayer teams up with his

Intelligent prey to rid the land
Of a tyrant who betrayed them
While the pilgrims arrive after
A rough ride on the Mayflower
Then February 2nd will keep
Repeating itself for a cynical TV
Weatherman sent to cover the
Groundhog in Punxsutawney
Pennsylvania. If plane crash
Survivors race against time
To rebuild their damaged air-
Craft after being forced down
In the desert, while a sniper
Must stop a terrorist who
Plans to sell nuclear materials
Then King Arthur will rule
With his magic sword amid
Merlin, Morgana, Lancelot
And the knights. If a new
England missionary and his
Bride bring Christianity to
Hawaii in the 1820s, while
A spunky Wall Street secretary

Takes her boss' place with
A merger specialist, then
A small-town reporter covering
The murder trial of a Japanese-
American will learn that the
Man's wife was his childhood
Sweetheart. If a blind teenager
Becomes a wrestler, while a
Sniper hired to kill a suspected
Terrorist learns his target is
An old friend, then a teenage
Figure skater will join the girl's
Hockey team in order to obtain
A scholarship at the school of
A renowned coach. If aspiring
Superheroes band together to
Defeat a villain, while a snake
Hunter leads a documentary
Crew into battle with a huge
Boa constrictor, then an Irish
Freedom fighter will engineer
The assassination of British
Officials following the failed

Easter Rising of 1916. If a
Lieutenant colonel and 400
US troops battle 2,000
North Vietnamese in 1965
While a woman falls in love
With a ranch owner after
Fleeing from her husband
And a ring of corrupt
Lawmen, then a yacht-man's
Wife will fall overboard and
Forget who she is, eventually
Becoming an Oregon
Carpenter's wife. If a former
San Francisco detective
Who dreads heights falls
For a woman he is hired to
Protect, while a former Marine
And a Marine on death row
Work together to assassinate
An Eastern European rogue
General, then a commodities
Trader will have an affair
With a beautiful co-worker

Then end the relationship
In order to save his marriage.
If an American street racer
In Japan learns an exciting
But dangerous new style
And goes head-to-head with
With a local champion who
Has ties to the Yakuza, while
A female journalist must
Prevent an evil spirit from
Taking her son's soul, then
A devilish boy will play
Pranks on the crotchety old
Fellow who lives next door.
If a lone Marine sharp-shooter
Goes on a Panama mission
With a Washington bureaucrat
Accustomed to paper targets
While a young woman in
Marseille re-meets Marius
The father of her child
While her aged father is
Dying, then quasi-federal

Agents will hunt a young girl

Who can start fires by staring –

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Roger Farr is the author of *SURPLUS. MEANS* and *IKMQ* are forthcoming. Recent critical writing on autonomous social movements and the avant-garde appears in *Anarchist Studies*, *Dandelion*, *The Postanarchism Reader*, and *Social Anarchism*. A critical introduction to Alice Becker-Ho's *The Essence of Jargon*, on the language of the dangerous classes, is forthcoming from Autonomedia. He teaches in the Creative Writing and Culture and Technology Programs and edits CUE Books at Capilano University in Vancouver.