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## LEA LITTLEWOLFE

### gustatorial

bruised banana peels stringy  
mandarin orange sweetly brew-y pleases tongue  
too-mature cauliflower blooms black speckled  
juliened broccoli and purple cabbage  
feel rot mushy  
dark green cucumber molds spotty under wax sealant  
gladly I accept this food bank bounty  
unacceptable produce from monster-store grocery

a child, I feasted with siblings  
on pears blotched brown, sharp green lettuce wilted  
blue plums unable to ripen to softness, too-small bananas  
corkscrew yams, red apples gone starchy  
in secret cardboard boxes handed  
to my father "for your pigs and sheep"  
behind the small-town grocery  
because a merchant preferred our brown skins  
to Hutterite black clothing

when my daughter on loan from her self-imposed  
foster-home exile came home for birthdays  
she gorged on fresh fruit  
from table, fridge, garden, forest  
her delighted teeth and tongue  
swished, gurgled, smacked, juiced  
overripe peaches, thumb-size blueberries  
ruby raspberries, tart strawberries  
pithy mangoes, succulent nectarines  
juicy watermelon, sweet cantaloupe  
even sometimes conceded foster care  
she had overrated

*Lea Littlewolfe has been published in grain, NeWest Review, Other Voices, Briarpath, Western People, McGill Street Magazine, Ash, Paw Prints, The Prince Albert Daily Herald, The Painted Gopher, and Canadian Literature.*