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A Woman of Sustenance

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A Woman of Sustenance

The unthinkable has happened:
I don't know what I'm going to serve.

A fullish box of crosnes, sweet corkscrew-
shaped root vegetables, tiny tubers

the impossible season
beautiful Tokay red plums
unworldly, always counterclockwise

black radish, rutabaga, beauty heart, burdock

loved the long days, the way things smelled –
always acquiring things – cold pressed Riesling
seed oil, elderflower syrup, splendid wild butternuts

native predilection for octaves: celery and celery root
in the same dish, or three generations of squash,

pears soft and spotty around the perimeter
down to the ends of turnip boxes

a spherical green vegetable –
beauty heart radish, handsome, remote,
gorgeous in cross section, a thin rim
pale green giving way to a vivid, almost
pulsing magenta, dripping hemispheres,
leguminous maracas

blanch vintage radishes – bleak, rich, thick

crush stray parsnip leaves
sniff the wistful winter miracle, bright and clean.

- found: "A Woman of Sustenance," *Gourmet*, October 2001