

how to make love to a chicken

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Comment faire l'amour à un poulet

Dans ce poème, les souvenirs d'une mère préparant un poulet paprikash rejoignent ceux d'une enfance abusée. Les préparatifs de la cuisson des poitrines de poulet (le choix de la viande au marché, le plumage, la coupe appropriée) servent de catalyseur contre les effets de l'abus paternel envers son corps. «Combien de synonymes existe-t-il pour «mutilation»?» demande la narratrice qui ne peut pas verbaliser sa colère. Elle ne peut que nous prévenir du danger que peut représenter un poulet à la peau violace, meurtrie et fendue.

A. peel back skin

her mother makes chicken paprikash
uses finest ingredients
tomatoes fresh never canned
blanches them in twos
unwraps like paper

uses free-range chicken from the st john boys
they sell them in fort rouge door to door
tells her daughter: *these are the choicest birds in winnipeg*
with chickens like these....

she is peeling off skin
in a dream a man slices her clitoris with a razorblade
dream man her father
waking part of mind doesn't recognize
just starting to
peel back

her mother shows how to disjoint chicken
this cleaver sharp you must be careful

B. insert point of steel

how many synonyms for mutilation
she cannot count fingers

in a dream her father cuts her tongue
tells police she slipped in bathtub
only four but knows a lie when she hears one

how many synonyms for mutilation?

she cannot speak

C. always save the wishbone

to size up a chicken
look for moist skin
soft legs, feet
bright eyes and
most importantly
a flexible breast bone

put the bird on its side
separate breast from back
CHOP exactly
through middle of ribs
CHOP front from spine
more than one blow **CHOP**

go for the glasses
without them she's defenseless

(just breathe breathe
BREAST DOWN: dislocate legs
BREAST UP: work flesh
from bone
in breathe out breathe
BREAST DOWN: loosen flesh
sharp knife
justbreathe justbreathe)

to size up a chicken
beware if skin is:

purplish

bruised

slit