



4-1-1995

## This Woman Is Full

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### Recommended Citation

Leishman, Jennie Rae (1995) "This Woman Is Full," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 35 : Iss. 2 , Article 9.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol35/iss2/9>

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## This Woman Is Full

This woman is full, a pantry  
stocked against winter: acorns,  
red apples, roots; a grainsack

stretched at the seams. This woman  
has been ripe since September, patient,  
biding her time turning bottles

in the cellar. Her children  
are wrapped in corn husks.  
Her robe is purple: she

has sewn leaves on the hem;  
the sleeves are lined with mink  
and the pockets are swollen: raisins,

almonds, pears. This woman keeps  
the coals hot in her white belly;  
she has named the winds and calls

the wild, albino ones to her  
and conceals them beneath  
her pale blue skirts

where they spin, waiting;  
and here there be the thin  
wolves and the land be gripped

with a terrible leanness—this woman  
is full, and she greets  
the first snowfall with laughter.

—Jennie Rae Leishman

“This Woman Is Full” received first place in the 1995 BYU Studies Poetry Contest.