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Domestic Violence

Casualene Meyer

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Domestic Violence

He came home with Pandora's bags in hand.
 I shelved and shook my head and breathed: *Not right*.
 Cheddar: sharp instead of mild. Ranch: lite
 instead of *Free*. Pears: fresh instead of canned
 and Quaker rather than a cheaper brand
 of oats. The jalapeños had sulfites.
 He bought lard and water in a net, tight
 girdle for bloated bacon sold as ham.

Two-percent, slow grits—didn't understand
 my shopping list, did he? So why'd I shove
 the wet, wadded bags into the trash, slam
 the cupboards and tell him *Thanks* in reprimand?
 Forget the hurled pots and heimlich hugs—
 my short list made us victims of his love.

—Casualene Meyer