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The Family Tradition

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The Family Tradition

Tonight,
we peel the garlic.
Flakes will fly around us
and the air will stink
of the old ways.

Tomorrow,
the pig will be killed
a slit throat in the morning
so the work can start in the afternoon.
Family will come in an array
to get their shares of the dead animal,
a gathering long awaited
to feed us for the year.
I'll watch the youngest
and put on a nice show
to hide my weary eyes
as my niece runs circles around our table,
a small forest fire in a world filled with firefighters.

On the third day,
we'll vacuum seal the
sausages and pork chops
and put them in piles for each family member,
until the next year,
when we get out the mason jars
and
the ceremony begins again.

About Abigail Petersen

Abigail Petersen is a freshman at UND studying to get a major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. She enjoys writing poetry, writing fantasy, and reading young adult novels. Her inspiration comes from her dogs, job, and various D&D campaigns.