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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.