

THE CULINARY ART OF WAR

Samuel Barke

So you see,
 the eggs were very pissed off
 for the gummy bears were mean
 they took up every corner of the fridge
 these colored bears, working as a team
 their rainbow intentions overpowered the
 bread
 and the poor vegetables were better off
 sick or dead
 the apples and kiwis were lacking much
 sleep
 and the mustard and mayo would con-
 stantly weep
 for those damn teddy sweets were as
 heartless as pain
 singing and dancing and playing gummy
 games
 bouncing on the leftovers and call-
 ing the tofu names
 mischief and trouble is all they wanted to
 gain
 and all of the other foods were suffering
 deep emotional strain

so one night, while the teddies were
 finally sleeping
 the eggs and the rest of the food all had
 a secret low key meeting
 "this ain't no yolk" said the eggs to the
 denizens of the refrigerator
 "we are a healthy community of edibles,
 we can't let junk food implore!
 I mean, seriously, who really wants those
 glucose packed jerks anymore?
 and anyone who does is a saccharine
 gobbling whore!
 they're loud and obnoxious, and color-
 fully cruel
 chanting rhyming verses like bubbly,
 jestering fools

they sing twenty four seven and they
 break every rule!
 honestly we don't think that shit is at all
 very cool"
 and the other foods agreed, especially
 the strawberries and beef stew
 and the orange juice kindly asked, "what
 exactly should we do?"
 so the eggs thought, then they thought
 once again.
 and with that they all shouted, "we'll tell
 you my friends!;
 we are spent and fed up! so let's make a
 declaration
 a protein and health food alike proclama-
 tion
 a vote, a movement for total health food
 domination
 they will be stripped from the food pyra-
 mid via pure incineration
 so let's mark our vow of total termination
 and war will be our full fledged instiga-
 tion
 aimed for the definite obliteration
 of these sugary abominations!"

so one day all of the teddies, who had
 been taking a rest
 woke up from their naps confused and
 began to protest:
 "tee hee hee, O M G, where could all
 the food be?
 There is none in the fridge that we ever
 could see!"
 and indeed, it was empty, nothing but
 white
 quite the opposite of the jungle of food
 from the time of last night
 every shelf was empty, nothing in sight
 something was up, something didn't
 seem right
 so the teddy bears gathered, a collage
 of colors galore
 and with the cutest of ease, pushed open
 the fridge door

the kitchen was calm, in shadows it lay

and the curious bears exclaimed "gosh,
what the hay?"
why won't the food come out and sing
dance and play?"

suddenly the lights flashed, like an instant
sunrise
and the healthy fridge foods were every-
where, to the teddies' surprise
gathered in rows on every which side
a band of warriors, from cottage
cheese to chicken pot pie.
Armed with spoons and knives, and tooth
picks and nutmeg
and at the front of the force was an army
of eggs

"Hello our good friends!" the gummy
bears cheered
"what a pleasant surprise, you know our
birthdays were last year!"
"cut the shit" cracked the eggs, "let's
make this ordeal clear;
We're sick of the crap you all do, ya little
dimwits hear?
"weah aahl duhnn widt daua sin-ghin,
dauh Dan-ceeding ehn Dauh gaay-
mez" slurred the beer
"and you're an unhealthy, sugary junk-
food snack!" the anchovies sneered
"you're a fiend to the mouth, you bring
cavities to our peers!"
and the eggs hastily ended with "your
demises are all near!"
and the gummy's sweet expressions were
sprinkled with much fear.
"please oh please!" they all pleaded,
"don't kill us, no no, oh dear!"
but all that was returned was "shut the
fuck up you multi-flavored queers!"

The war cry was shouted from the food,
over the heads of broccoli and jars of
Jelly
and from the eggs came a roar like a
lion's loud, loud belly
and the sea of food fighters charged with

their knives and sharpened forks
and the juice boxes and bagels were
armed with cheaply made plastic sporks

it seemed like the end and the gummy
bears were damned
but little did the eggs know, the
bears had a backup plan
"you think you've got us corned?" said
the gummies, "we're not that stupid"
and the rainbow flavored bears gave
a whistle that could knock the wings off
cupid
and from the cliffed counters and the
cupboards mountainous and high,
came the heckling screams of sugar
sweet battle cries
the hoard of charging health foods, all
came to a stop
for before them, behind the gummies,
the desserts had all come to aid their
little bear buddies

"CHAAAARGE!!!!"
"KILLLLL THEEEEEMMMM!!!!"

so chaos emerged, and both sides
started to mix
the carrots shanked the waffles, and the
salad beheaded the twix
it was a menu of pain, a buffet with no
name
an all you can eat dog eat dog resta-
rant food chain
a potluck of physical and emotional war
pain
this food fight would go down in the
food hall of shame
the wedding cake came to the aid of the
sugar
then smashed every grape and pea into
piles of boogers
jell-o suffocated the left over bacon
and spam
and the butterfingers were impaled by
the raspberry jam
the bag of marshmallows tore apart the

sandwich
 in vengeance the cheese cried "you son
 of a bitch!"
 the cabbage took a knife and sliced open
 the bread that was rye
 and the watermelon flattened the McDon-
 olds french fries
 like a blizzard the ice cream froze the
 potatoes colder than ice
 and the chocolate pudding was over-
 whelmed by the Indian rice
 the heroic ketchup was stabbed, red leak-
 ing everywhere
 that day he died a valiant death, at the
 paws of those god damn gummy bears

and finally, as if it was fate
 the gummies and eggs faced off on a
 fancy dinner plate
 Mortal Kombat it was, but it was more like
 fast food
 for the eggs and the bears had some
 sweet ninja moves
 red, blue, green, and yellow
 the gummies attacked every hardboiled
 fellow
 but the eggs were fast too, and very hard
 shelled
 and wanted to send those colorful bas-
 tards all to saccharine hell
 egg whites were flying
 and the tasty bears were dying
 omelets were frying
 and sugary tears were crying

and then,
 the battle came to a halt

something had happened, somewhere
 deep, deep down
 and the enemies of the fridge all looked
 around
 putting their teriyaki sticks and steak knives
 slowly to the ground

"look at this place! look at what we've
 done..."

I really doubt either of us would have won
 we've suffered losses a plenty on both of
 our sides
 and for what? we let aggressive feelings
 override!"

"we're sorry" said the eggs, "for the war
 we have caused"
 "and we are too" weeped the bears,
 "cross our hearts with our paws.
 our singing and games that we love are
 too much,
 we'll try to hold back, and...ya, such and
 such"

making amends on both sides, the des-
 erts and health foods made a pact
 that they would never again get involved
 in a problem like that
 so as they all returned to the fridge, with
 smiles on their faces
 they realized to their horror;
 they couldn't get back in.
 without hands you can only push.
 there's no way one can pull.

