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## Tomato Hornworms

Jenna Caschera

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# TOMATO HORNWORMS

JENNA CASCHERA

High humidity  
is my mother  
huffing, "It's muggy."  
Her hair wild, wispy,  
sticking to her neck.  
She is dripping, skin  
flushed, weeding  
between the tomatoes.  
My nose and cheeks  
pink, raw, peeling  
outer layers, revealing  
tender ripening. She  
squeezes lotion down  
my arms, hands me  
chopsticks and a brown  
paper lunch bag.

I am an Asian porcelain  
doll, wearing my nightgown,  
plucking juicy plump  
caterpillars, suctioned  
to branches, the size  
of my fingers. My mother  
sweats into the dirt. Horned  
dragons crash into the bag.

