Utah Valley University

From the Selected Works of Jan Wellington

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Beethoven's Apple Pie (poem)

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/jan_wellington/13/
I've just heard Jimmy Santiago Baca
cry his poem how life taught him
a man must eat his grief.
Choking back a seed I
grit my teeth and, dumbfingered,
peel apples for a pie.

Beethoven's Seventh Symphony is playing,
the second movement,
pressure so fierce
the apples weep . . .

. . . I'm lying on the floor
in the dark with a boy,
lips to his ear, confessing
my dream is to sing.
Beethoven's Seventh Symphony is playing,
the second movement,
need so fierce we
collapse into music,

become my parents that night
many movements ago
when a child was conceived
to Beethoven's Seventh Symphony,
a girl so dumb and hungry
she ravishes apples
for their speech.