

CREATIVE WRITING, LITERATURE, POETRY

# ONE POEM – Bett Butler

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Des champignons comestibles, suspects et vénéneux :  
Paris :Chappron, rue de la Grande-Truanderie, n. 50 :1827-1828  
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# Food Porn

*(in herbivorous homage to Victorian erotica)*

## I

### Asparagus

Ardent herb of Aphrodite!  
Tantric twig!  
Verdant spire of Kama Sutan lore!  
Pubescent vernal shoots  
feted in the cookbook of ancient Apicius  
praised as medicament by the great physician Galen  
chronicled as offering to Egyptian gods of old.  
Best harvested in your puerility  
your delicate tips, points d'amour  
a favorite of the king's courtesan.  
Best quickly cooked  
swiftly stir-fried in sesame oil  
roasted posthaste in extra-virgin nectar of the olive  
sautéed in brown butter  
you are the *bonne bouche* of spring.  
But take heed!  
Hearken to your griddle!  
Let not your tender buds linger overlong in the flame  
lest they too quickly achieve their climacteric  
and wither, wilted and wan.  
Still, think not this comestible unduly ephemeral!  
For this fleeting and fragile culinary pleasure  
leaves a fragrant souvenir  
a peculiar perfume  
lingering, ambrosial and pungent  
in the trickling stream.

## II Broccoli

O broccolo, flowering crest of cabbage  
wee tree  
noble staple of the Roman Empire.  
O beautiful bouquet of bounteous blossoms yet unbloomed  
tightly held in myriad miniature fists of malachite hue.  
Bejeweled floret of jadeite!  
How proudly perch the clustered buds of verdigris  
atop your tumid pedicle.  
Yet, stripped of your callous bark  
you reveal a tender heart  
aching to be julienned  
thirsting for anointment with oil  
and the baptism of steam.  
With heat's mellifluous influence  
your tiny branches effloresce  
into supple jewels of glimmering emerald.  
Delicate virgin buds burst in my mouth  
gushing their claret of savory green.  
O cruciferous topiary  
let me be lost in your peppery coppice!

### III Mushroom

Fruit of fungus  
feigner of fauna  
fusion of puck and protoplasm.  
Of all flora,  
most akin to flesh  
as at birth, when your egg-like *primordium* bursts through the *universal veil*.  
Here is the naming of your parts:  
*volva*  
*annulus*  
*hymenium*  
*thallus*

Need more be said?

*Award-winning songwriter Bett Butler (International Songwriting Competition, Independent Music Awards) celebrates the sensuality of simple food and pokes at the affectations of haute cuisine with poetic satire. Her poetry and short fiction have appeared or are forthcoming in Weave, Feathertale, Amp, Voices de la Luna, Ginosko, The Field Guide, and other small-press publications in the U.S. and Canada. Co-owner of Mandala Music Production in culturally- and culinarily-rich San Antonio, Texas, she and her spouse produce music and spoken word licensed for HBO, Discovery Channel, and more. Her website is [www.bettbutler.com](http://www.bettbutler.com). Follow her on Twitter and Instagram @bettbutler.*

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