

HOW TO WRITE, HOW NOT TO WRITE ABOUT PEARS

Bitter? No. Coaxed you sweeten but do not cloy. Do not
Impose an idea of a pear on the pear ask *when is a pear a pear?*
'Russet-flecked green' shows color. 'Shaped like my aunt' shows –
No. My aunt is shaped like a pear (fruit came first) but how
Else to say 'shaped like a pear'? Bulky ballooning bottom?
Narrow rounded top? A chartreuse teardrop? Forget shape.

Mark words : Poire, Birne, Pera. Pere, Pirum, Peru – not Peru.
Argentina the country from which you came. Try names :
Comice, Forelle, Anjou. Bosc, Seckel, Packham. Confused?
How to write about a fruit with five thousand hues : ancient,
Enter its DNA, see time unwind; don't let the odd-sounding
Names put you off. Pear equals pear, this one lumpy – marbles,

Squeezed under thin skin, embedded in flesh – it took steroids
Perhaps to intimidate smaller pears. Or maybe planters sprayed
Aldrin to kill worms – tumors bubble up in the body, underside
Shrinks, yellows. Maybe Argentinian pears are just pumped.
Subtle pear, come out of the shadows. I know you are alone.

Zero though a sign you only approach in declivitous ellipses.
Unpaired this pear reminds me of first love how he fed supple
Meat let juice run down chin onto chest. I sucked clean sticky

Ends, ground a gritty stone cell as we ate our yellow Bartlett.
So I wrote a poem about this, called it 'Genesis' left Milton's
Serpent but changed his apple to a pear (pears are juicier) ate,
Exposed wet teeth marks like Adam's next to my wide bite.
Nibbled down to the core we discarded the heart of the pome.

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