

Fall 12-1-2007

## The Consumer's Lament

Robyn Byrd  
*College of DuPage*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Byrd, Robyn (2007) "The Consumer's Lament," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 28 : No. 1 , Article 58.  
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol28/iss1/58>

This Selection is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at DigitalCommons@COD. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prairie Light Review by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@COD. For more information, please contact [koteles@cod.edu](mailto:koteles@cod.edu).

# The Consumer's Lament

Robyn Byrd

The apple's flesh separates  
Sting of pesticide on my tongue  
The strawberries leer  
Fruit is out to get me

It wasn't the farmers' idea  
To pollute the apple  
And the bodies that eat of it  
But business is business

So this is how commodity tastes  
The cornflakes of corporate design  
Force fed to cows and babies alike  
"We the people, the walking corn chips"

What doesn't make war can make food  
Black out the label  
Turn over the barrel  
It's no longer lethal—it's fertilizer

He who loved the land and planted the seed  
Who nursed the oats and beans and gardens  
Is the new endangered species—  
He dumps rivers of corn by the road now

Savory taste, beautiful skin  
Sacrificed for yield and profit  
Ten thousand years up in smoke  
The green revolution is upon us

What legacy of chemistry and crime  
Will tomorrow offer to the dinner plate  
Hide the produce from the babies—  
They like to put things in their mouths