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It Used To Be So Easy

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IT USED TO BE SO EASY

When you were in the high chair
you never questioned those who said
green beans and applesauce
would make you grow.

On your Girl Scout cookie route
you skipped the house
where they said danger lurked.

But came the day
when you were forced to enter
no man's land alone.
Your stomach gnawed,
your heart burned
at high school graduation
and you crossed the stage
to the future.

The night before your wedding
you looked across the dinner table
at almost-relatives
waiting for their meal.
Soon you would be their main course.

Life's become a cafeteria
with a line that moves so fast
no selection can be put back.

— *Constance Vogel*