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Tuna Casserole

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Tuna Casserole

H.E. CARTER

The warm, familiar flavor
Dances over my tongue
And suddenly,
I'm dancing too,
A small child singing,
"Cheese and peas and tuna and rice,"
In time with the cooking sounds

Or maybe I'm standing,
Just outside the kitchen
With my housemates,
Some on two feet, some on four,
Our noses raised high in the air
To take in the comforting scent

Or I'm off somewhere,
Trying to ignore my nagging stomach
Until the sounds of the kitchen timer
And the bowls in the cupboard
Start a chain reaction of galloping feet,
Rushing to fill our bellies

But now I'm in a dorm room,
Far from the kitchen timer
And the bowls in the cupboard
And the rushing feet, two and four,
Left with only this simple dish
Of cheese and peas and tuna and rice
To fill me up with the warmth of home