

# Yalobusha Review

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Volume 5

Article 28

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8-1-1999

## Coq au Vin

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### Recommended Citation

Moustaki, Nikki (1999) "Coq au Vin," *Yalobusha Review*. Vol. 5 , Article 28.  
Available at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/yr/vol5/iss1/28>

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Nikki Moustaki  
*Coq au Vin*

In the kitchen hacking chicken, Mother's cleaver  
has never been sharper. There's a dried gecko  
behind the toaster, its bismuth gone over to gray.

Mother adds wine to the simmer, romances the reds  
together, the hen stipples up plum,  
like sandpaper, Mother rubs the flour in.

The row of milk seed taking soil seriously now,  
greens on the sill like spring, though it's November.  
But the oven drags the kitchen into summer,

brussels sprouts boil on the stove. Mother feeds the pot  
from her glass, the bird rusts, the plates deepen.  
You fill your own. The seedlings shiver.

Though you haven't been here in years, the chicken  
never changes. What's dead remains dead.  
Mother chops the bacon in.