

metaphor → continuity, fidelity, stability, sameness
Root of Constancy by Karen Ackland

protagonist

Cheryl cooks beets for men who are not her husband. She'd make them for her husband, a wiry man with a trim mustache, but he doesn't like them.

"I never ate beets growing up," he says, as if that explains everything. - Husband is stubborn; could also be stubborn in relationship
"But you've changed," Cheryl insists. } repeats @ end she wants husband to enjoy beets.

"Not about beets," he replies.

Cheryl wants to please her husband, but she has a hard time keeping her hands off beets. After they're cooked and she slips off their skins, beets reveal a vibrancy only hinted at before. On occasion she has experimented with golden and candy-striped beets, but she considers these novelties. What she likes about beets is their color, and the color should be red. Her husband complains that beets stain the kitchen sink. They take up room in the refrigerator that could be used by sausages or luncheon meats. Cheryl tells him beets are rich in potassium but, although he is a man who likes facts, he isn't swayed by hers. His stubbornness rankles her. She doesn't see why he won't change and plans dinner parties where other men can appreciate her beets.

"Beets," Alberto exclaims over a crystal bowl containing a salad of beets and oranges. makes her very mad/upset many other men enjoying "beets"

"Beets," Steve says when she brings balsamic beets to the table, arranged on a blue and white ceramic platter. Cheryl still wants to make beets & satisfies herself w/ making them for others. more than one course?!

"Beeping beets," cries Brian, who likes to play with his food, when she serves a first course of grated beets and carrots in a ginger vinaigrette. Does the husband mind other men eating her beets?

To these meals her husband contributes grilled sausages, pork tenderloin, and chicken satay. He doesn't expect anyone to say much about the food he makes, and they don't. Instead they talk about other beets they've enjoyed—a chilled soup, a rich risotto. Cheryl hopes her husband will eventually join these conversations, but although he'll sit at the same table with beets, even putting one or two on his plate, he refuses to admire their color. Cheryl persists in her beet-making. She plans to make beets for a new friend, Bill, but at the last minute the dinner is cancelled. Her husband catches her in the kitchen cooking borscht. His strategies to avoid vegetables have become predictable and transparent. - Cheryl knows when he is avoiding beets other men do not appreciate husbands' food
Is he hoping they might be bad to avoid beets? is he actually contemplating having some? Avoiding her?

"Are those beets still good?" he asks. Husband likes meat; not vegetables. What does that mean?

"They're fine."
"Is there any sausage that goes in that?"
"No." ← blunt, short replies: Cheryl tired of stubbornness

That evening at dinner, Cheryl stirs yogurt into her borscht and watches the edges turn a delicate pink. Everything else in the bowl is a satisfying riched. Forgetting herself, she sighs with pleasure. Cheryl enjoys both husband looks at beet borscht → Alliteration cooking & having beets.

Glancing over, Cheryl's husband suggests, "I guess I've been prejudiced about beets." He is more open-minded → husband knows he is prejudiced by looking, not tasting. Cheryl having affairs

"Have you changed?" Cheryl teases. } from above why doesn't "husband" have a name? other men have names.
"Not about you," he replies. He still loves her?

compliments