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The Calamity of Man

Susan Fogarty

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THE CALAMITY OF MAN

He'll try to do that,
a man will, organize
your life. He'll throw
open your cupboards, strip
all shelves clean,
spill goods
to the floor. The rattle
of him at work
will leave you
heaped
as never before.
Barley, bran and your
Aunt Fran's apple
butter clap together
with tuna, tomatoes,
Delmonte beef stew.

He'll hoist his sleeves, tell you
how it really oughta be,
then line up your cans
according to size,
small ones on bottom
and to the back.
He'll be amused
with your stash
of phrases and nouns,
casually flip
them aside, try to
replace them with diapers,
soufflés, or tell you
to take up real
estate instead.