

# The New Criterion

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## The case of the carrot

by Susan Kinsolving

They made the news, the local couple and their lawsuit.  
The verdict came down: intent. He'd "hurled a raw carrot"  
during an argument; the orange root hit her right eye-  
ball, rupturing it. He was in handcuffs, sorry-looking

as she showed the jury her prosthetic eye, removing it  
from her head to hold in her hand. She said, "See  
what he did to me?" Astonished, the twelve stared:  
an eye was looking back at them from the palm

of her hand. In defense, the husband pleaded, "I  
didn't 'hurl' a mallet or a carving knife. Just a carrot.  
Vegetables aren't meant to harm. In fact, carrots are  
supposedly good for the eyes." A mistake, to have

joked. The jury turned against him, and Justice,  
wearing a blindfold in order to weigh evidence  
without prejudice, let the acrylic eye tip her scale.  
Indicted by a carrot, he served two years in jail.

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**Susan Kinsolving** has written four books of poems, her latest being *My Glass Eye* (Grove Press).

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