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At the Gas Station on the Corner

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At the Gas Station on the Corner

by Jane A. Banks

I wait in the truck and watch
my young husband
fill our grill's propane tank
and wonder:
how do men learn the tasks of modern manhood?
I do not know
how to fill a propane tank.
If I wanted
to be a man
to get out of the truck
to fill a propane tank
to grill our meat
where would I go to learn?
His father must have taught him
and his father before
father before father
all the way back until
before propane tanks
when men lit the eating fires by hand.

