

Things Inside of Other Things

by Lynn Beighley

Last year, she created a turducken. She could have bought one, they had them at the butcher shop, pre-stuffed. But she cared too much about her guests and about the spirits of the unfortunate poultry involved to let the carcasses be manhandled by an anonymous meat stuffer.

Her strong, but delicate hands were well suited to the task of painstakingly deboning the turkey, duck, and chicken, and then stuffing the chicken in the duck, and then the duck, stuffed with chicken, into the turkey. When she finished, the three creatures melded together to form a delicious strata.

A year passed. Between last year's Thanksgiving and this one, she got divorced, changed jobs twice, and went on three dates. Her Thanksgiving guest list dwindled from the eight people of last year to just three: her parents and herself.

Undaunted, this year she seeks a more complicated challenge. Determined to make this Thanksgiving more special than the last, she ponders long on how to create a chiduckey. The secrets to the chiduckey, she thinks, are a very large chicken, a medium duck, and a powerful blender for the turkey. Oh, and a funnel, because she's pouring a huge amount of substance into an extremely small, but very empty, cavity.

