

HAILEY LEITHAUSER

How to Swallow the Moon

Briskly or inch-
 meal, full
moon or half moon or new
 as a nickel,
 in white tie and tails,
in China Sea pearls,
 at a diner or a finer
establishment with
 silver or pewter
accoutrements.
 Swallow
it skimmed from
 a lake or plucked from
 a pond, with
ivory chopsticks, from a flute
 or a flask, from a jelly
glass jar, open
 mouthed, through a straw, swallow
winter's bright scythe
 or autumn's round
butter pie, do it
 dripping with envy, puffy
 with lust, on
a doormat or grassland, in a gazebo,
 on the raised wooden prow of a slow
sinking ship, but swallow it
 always completely
and brashly and
 neatly
 to the spans of the stubs of
 your toes and to
your fingertips.