

## Wilderness House Literary Review 7/1

*D Anne Bodman*

### **The Power of Cauliflower**

I am probably one of the few people who get so excited about eating cauliflower salad that I can't even wait until lunch. I like its crunchiness and the surprise of green olives.

I know all of the things you will eat (there are not that many) and all of them you will say are too much.

We have too much of everything.

Last night as I was leaving a party, holding my coat, a woman who had just arrived came up to me. She introduced herself and asked me my name. She thought I said Anne, and smiled telling me that was her mother's name. She said that I was so fair, even fairer than she, I reminded her of what her mother looked like when she was young. I laughed and thanked her for the young part. Then she said her mother died when she was young.

Earlier in the evening, my daughter's childhood friend told me she has been thinking a lot about me. While she was in Ghana her boyfriend's mother died in a car accident. He was never close to his father, so losing his mother made him suddenly alone. She can imagine how it was for me.

We have too much of everything.

I ate the cauliflower and sat down to write.