

STEVE PRICE

Eve Shopsin, 57, partner in famous quirky Village eatery

—obituary headline in The Village Voice

Herm takes the habañero
from his Indomalekian Stew,
sets it behind his teeth, pulls the pin.
José grabs a dustpan;
JAMBALAYA SAPIENS goes up on the board.
Jack's full,
garlic cloves like tears in his beard.
He's rudely awakened
by a cell phone's high-speed "I Love a Parade";
its owner's bones clatter on the sidewalk.
And the Sanitation officer,
he sends his dead auntie this time,
like she's not going to get *her* ass kicked.
People think they're at the top of the food chain
then the worms get us.
Kenny's out of expletives,
in particular, the one that comes from *föck*:
to plow, turn the earth.
His apron is soaked red.
He cut out one of his ribs.