

1 of furniture. So we have no extant record of the
2 long years of wanting, of wanting and wanting and
3 being denied. Reaching for bread and peanut butter
4 and having Slimfast thrust into my twelve-year-old
5 fist. Mother says "No, I am putting my foot down."
6 She is putting her foot down, I see, and I see that
7 to want and demand things is bad.
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The Most Massive Woman Wins

by Madeleine George

1 A seventeen-year-old girl in a liposuction clinic waiting room
2 ruminates in *The Most Massive Woman Wins* by Madeleine
3 George.
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6 **RENNIE:** The first picture of me is at my first birthday
7 party. In this one I am screaming with laughter and
8 holding my hands up to show the camera that I am
9 covered with chocolate cake. My face is smeared with
10 it, it is all over the front of my pretty pink dress.
11 Apparently I was quite verbally advanced, and my
12 parents were showing me off when my Uncle Jake
13 said, "Oh yeah? How smart is she?" "She's a genius,"
14 says my mother, "she understands everything. Try it.
15 She'll do anything you say." So ... "Rennie," says my
16 Uncle Jake, "smush that chocolate cake all over your
17 face, sweetheart. Will you do that for me?" And I did
18 it, of course, because I was just that smart and I
19 ruined my dress and they took a picture of me
20 humiliating myself when I was twelve months old.
21 *(Flashbulb pops.)* This one is my mother's favorite. It's
22 of her and me on one of our mother-daughter days,
23 we're on the steps of the Met looking very close and
24 what you don't see is Mother boring her knuckles into
25 the small of my back saying "Straighten up,
26 sweetheart, it lengthens your neck. Now glow, come
27 on, glow. We want this one to glow." For awhile there
28 is an absence of photos — when tummies are no
29 longer little-girl cute. Mother hides me at family
30 gatherings and I seem always to end up behind pieces