

Bell Pepper by Rakshan Rizwan

We thought we were growing green chillies.
We watered the jalapeno pepper plant and waited
for the spicy juices to run.
We were going to put them
in our chicken karahi
and make it extra spicy
so it burnt our mouths
as we ate.

○ One day I spotted three chillies
growing in the planter -
they were long and invitingly juicy.
I ran inside to tell everyone,
I shouted, "The chillies are ripe,
the chillies are ripe!"
Then my mum stepped outside
with her culinary scissors
which I am not allowed to touch,
and she let me snip them one by one.

○ She told me not to taste,
but I couldn't help it –
I popped one in my mouth
*and it wasn't spicy at all
because it was a bell pepper.*

My mum said, "Don't eat that!"
thinking it was a real chilli,
but I crunched it in my mouth
with a smile so she would think
I was the bravest jalapeno-eating
superhero in the world.

