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CARINA

Noun. Any of various ridge-shaped structures, from the Latin for "keel of a boat." Discuss.

—Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary

The carina is the bow of the canoe of your lungs
where the trachea splits
into the bronchi
and the edges flow
into the gunnels,
waves of blood beating
against the hull.

It is also the name
for the peak formed
by the fused petals of the pea blossom,
where the cup closes to hold all of its sex
and sweetness.

The carina, in birds (but not the flightless ones) and bats,
is that portion of the sternum where the muscles of flight attach—

the reason you have to thunk the back of the knife
when you split a chicken.
Freedom's bone.