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BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER GOOD INTENTIONS

Some are born too early, most too late:
too fragile for the life process,
too wispy to withstand seasonal treachery--
expending their juices, their flight cells,
wet and wingless
on the torn flap of the chrysalis.

Time swifter than embryonic wishing
pulls uncounted noble designs
beyond the source of nurture, anointed
only by the Virgin's tears.

Do their glistening granules return
to incubate again in more fertile capsules
or must they wander wasted--
forever looking for their lost momentum,
missing moments
and a womb?

--Glenna Holloway