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## Natural Order

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## NATURAL ORDER

The robin is dead. The cats  
brought it yesterday to my back door.  
We have no vultures or wolves, yet  
the chipmunk has left her hole  
out near the hedge. Now she climbs  
on the bird's breast, scavenges  
neatly through brown feathers.

Here, we all feed on the prey  
of others, even in our back yards.

## SEASONS

Again, buds on the magnolia tree,  
scent of Tara and musk  
of spanish moss. We planted  
the first of each: forsythia,  
hyacinth, daffodil,  
the seeds of children.

We were young. It was enough  
to be a northerner,  
to know the sun's heat  
would plant itself on the horizon.  
Even today, we unfold,  
pale petals to summer air.