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### Smattering

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## Smattering

You know how words gather: I could say,  
like starlings, sensing a meal. The little birds  
are a bit of a lit cliché, but their hunger  
and the very concrete crumbs of your sweet  
pastry lure them into corporeality.

Here I am wont to trap them,  
use each as bait for more, arrange  
and rearrange my prey (juggling their tiny  
feathered squawks, avoiding beaks),  
until they're dizzy and can't escape, until  
they're tamed on lines as trim as notes  
of vocal music. All frozen moments  
ready to spring back to wing in the re-  
constituting liquid of a curious voice.  
Are all things really signs?

Except today  
and yesterday, and all this week:  
as soon as they start to appear  
they scatter, spooked by a gesture  
of your lovely arm, sensing the heat  
as you drew nearer, or suspicious  
at some microscopic movement  
of your finger, of your lips.