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# Will, Wilting

Jacquelyn Nasti

*Vassar Miller Poetry Award Winner*

A woman's dress is unfastened,  
draped open at the nape of her neck.  
Eyes cast downward, cheeks rosed.  
Her hair loose: a tendril, falling, reaching.

Torn open, the nape of her neck,  
a tendril: wilting. A woman's not to be untied.  
Her hair loose: a tendril, falling, reaching.  
But it's not like a woman to be a flower

or a tendril: wilting. A woman's not to be untied.  
It is not like a flower to be untidy.  
It's not like a woman to be a flower.  
It's just like a flower, to die when you're cut.