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Will, Wilting

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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.