



Cherie Hunter Day A Color for Leaving



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A Color for Leaving

bottled water
stored in the trunk of my car
cool at night
warm during the day
this is how I fluctuate

clear night, owl night
through the tissue of darkness
an exchange
their grip of honed surfaces
my sinew and bone

a brown moth
folded on the windowsill
an expiration date
on my cereal box—
as if I need reminders

butterflies alight
and easily blend in
by folding their wings
the flashes of blue reserved
for leaving

the pilot light
igniting a blue flame
under the teapot
an unencumbered sky
at the end of autumn

Award Credits

“butterflies alight”

Honorable Mention, Haiku Poets of Northern California San Francisco International
Tanka Contest 2005

“even this”

First Place, Haiku Poets of Northern California San Francisco International Tanka
Contest 2006

“in every kingdom”

Tanka Splendor Award 2005

“nineteen months”

Honorable Mention, Tanka Society of America International Tanka Contest 2006

“our new kettle”

Commended, Tanka Café Members’ Choice, *Ribbons* 1:2, 2005

“spiraling”

First Place, Tanka Society of America International Tanka Contest 2007

