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## Swallowtail

Bonnie Frazier

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NEMO JESUNESAN JANANI JEGANATHAN

**Swallowtail**

BONNIE FRAZIER

I keep apologizing to God  
for the mistake I am  
in my mother's image  
found a swallowtail  
a tear in its wing  
would have been merciful to kill it  
I couldn't  
I held it in the palm of my hand  
in my car, sweating within the metal  
underneath the Texas sun  
and watched it die