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Succession

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SUCCESSION

for my mother

I slip into your sweater,
the yarn, a ganglion
of nerves.

I slip into your dress.
The cuffs close
around my wrists.

The collar lies
on my chest
like a thick vein.

Now I'm in your hats,
coats, gloves, each one
folding back into my body.

I slip into your blouse,
the buttons dissolving,
the buttons, black tears.

The threads unravel,
crawl into my arms,
spin dark

green cocoons.
Just beneath my skin,
wings are beating.